



Summer 2005

The Voice, Summer 2005: Volume 50, Issue 4

Dordt College

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THE VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

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N U M B E R 4

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The most
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for the science
and education
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Rhoda ends thirty-four years at Dordt College



As shown in this artist's sketch, the campus master plan would open up the center of campus for common green areas, moving parking to the perimeter.

Board of trustees approves new campus master plan

Sally Jongsma

At its April meeting, the Dordt College board of trustees approved in concept a new master plan for the campus. The plan was commissioned to help the college implement the priorities laid out in the strategic plan adopted last year and also to help connect the campus to the recently acquired Kuhl farm which now makes up the south end of the Dordt College campus.

“The plan gives coherence and a sense of openness to the campus,” says President Carl E. Zylstra. Ironically, even though Dordt is in a rural community, it has grown relatively crowded as buildings were added on existing property and as land around campus was developed.

Zylstra stresses that the plan was approved as a guideline, not a blueprint for future growth and development.

“This is the land we have to work with now,” he says. “We want to think ahead so that when we need to grow, we don’t have to tear down buildings to build what we need.”

The Six Goals of the Campus Master Plan

Planners were originally given six goals:

- Improve the main entrance to give more of a front door to the campus
- Accommodate a variety of parking needs
- Develop identifiable areas for academics, residences, and a common area
- Integrate the new property into the campus
- Expand and develop curricular program facilities
- Give a long term framework for future growth

The most urgently needed components of the plan are facilities for the science and

education departments, as highlighted in the strategic plan. Some of Dordt’s science laboratories were built nearly forty years ago, others during the last major renovation of the building which occurred twenty years ago. Both the content of courses and the equipment and facilities needed to teach the curriculum have changed steadily over the past four decades. Dordt College professors have been creative and resourceful, but demands for new work areas and equipment continue to grow.

“As we move into areas like biotechnology, we will need different types of facilities,” says Zylstra. He also believes that up-to-date facilities will help attract good students and faculty. The plan proposes an addition on the south end of the present building.

“It’s easier to build new labs than to remodel old ones,” says Vice President for Business Affairs Arlan Nederhoff. Current building codes require bigger ventilation and power systems than the labs currently have. So it will be more cost effective to turn

(continued on page 2)

Dordt's "really rolling now"

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

It was one of Dordt College's first big breaks on the public relations front. The year was 1979 and one of the most popular columnists of Iowa's one and only state-wide newspaper reported in his column that he had fallen in love with little Dordt College—at that point not even twenty-five years old—in the small town of Sioux Center, Iowa.

The columnist, Chuck Offenburger, had done a series on the four major universities of the state—University of Iowa, Iowa State, Northern Iowa, and Drake. But he wanted to include one of Iowa's thirty-plus small colleges too—and so he chose to feature Dordt College in his series of "The Big Four and One More." Never mind that one reason he chose to feature Dordt was because of its unusual name. After all, we couldn't buy publicity like this—with hundreds of thousands of people all over the state now knowing that Dordt College had arrived on the scene.

Offenburger reminded me of this episode recently when he sent me an e-mail commenting on the wonderful publicity Dordt College is getting in this our Jubilee year. He had noted the full-page coverage granted by the *Sioux City Journal* and had seen our ads in the *Des Moines Register*

for the magnificent Jubilee Spring Music Concert that was scheduled for the Hoyt-Sherman House in Des Moines. Reflecting on how young the college had been when he wrote that first piece twenty-six years ago and how Dordt's impact now spreads across the region on a regular ongoing basis just a quarter century later, Chuck concluded his message to me, "You're really rolling now."

I guess I would concur. The only problem I have is that as a Calvinist, I always get a little worried when someone says we're really rolling. After all, Calvinists traditionally have had an uneasy feeling that if we're really rolling, we must be rolling downhill. Maybe it's our strong emphasis on Old Testament history

and our familiarity with the books of Kings and Chronicles. But somehow, Calvinist Christians historically seem to have presumed that once we get rolling, it's all downhill from there.

There may be some truth in such concerns. But I think it also reminds us that Reformed Christians have a problem with celebrating, even with celebrating what God has done. We always seem to fear, and perhaps sometimes with good reason, that our success has been bought at the price of giving up our obedience.

The problem, however, is that such an obsessive focus on how undeserved

our blessings are sometimes can obscure our appreciation for just how marvelous God's blessings have become. Certainly it's one thing to be humble and to know how unworthy we are to receive God's good gifts. But it's quite another thing to so denigrate the glory of God's gracious bestowals that we are unable to celebratively honor the One from whom all blessings really do flow.

So I hope that in this Jubilee year we are truly humble, knowing that "Unless the Lord had built the house, we would have labored in vain to build it." But may we never let our humility obscure the fact that God himself truly has built a wonderful college here in Sioux Center, Iowa. The beauty and strength of Dordt College, such as it is after just fifty years, is a testimony to the marvelous glory of the God who has done an amazing thing in this little corner of his world.

Our first president, B.J. Haan, used to tell the story about a great steam engine that nobody believed could ever get rolling. But once it did get rolling, the nay sayers began to carp that now it could never be stopped. May our 50th anniversary be a time when we gratefully acknowledge that God himself has indeed gotten Dordt College rolling—and not downhill but rather down the track that leads into the future that he himself has prepared. For when that's the focus of our celebration, we won't hesitate to joyfully declare, "We really are rolling now." Then God himself will get the glory—and we will have a marvelous time celebrating and praising him for it.



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

A moment of reflection in this Jubilee year

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra sent this email to the campus community on March 1, 2005:

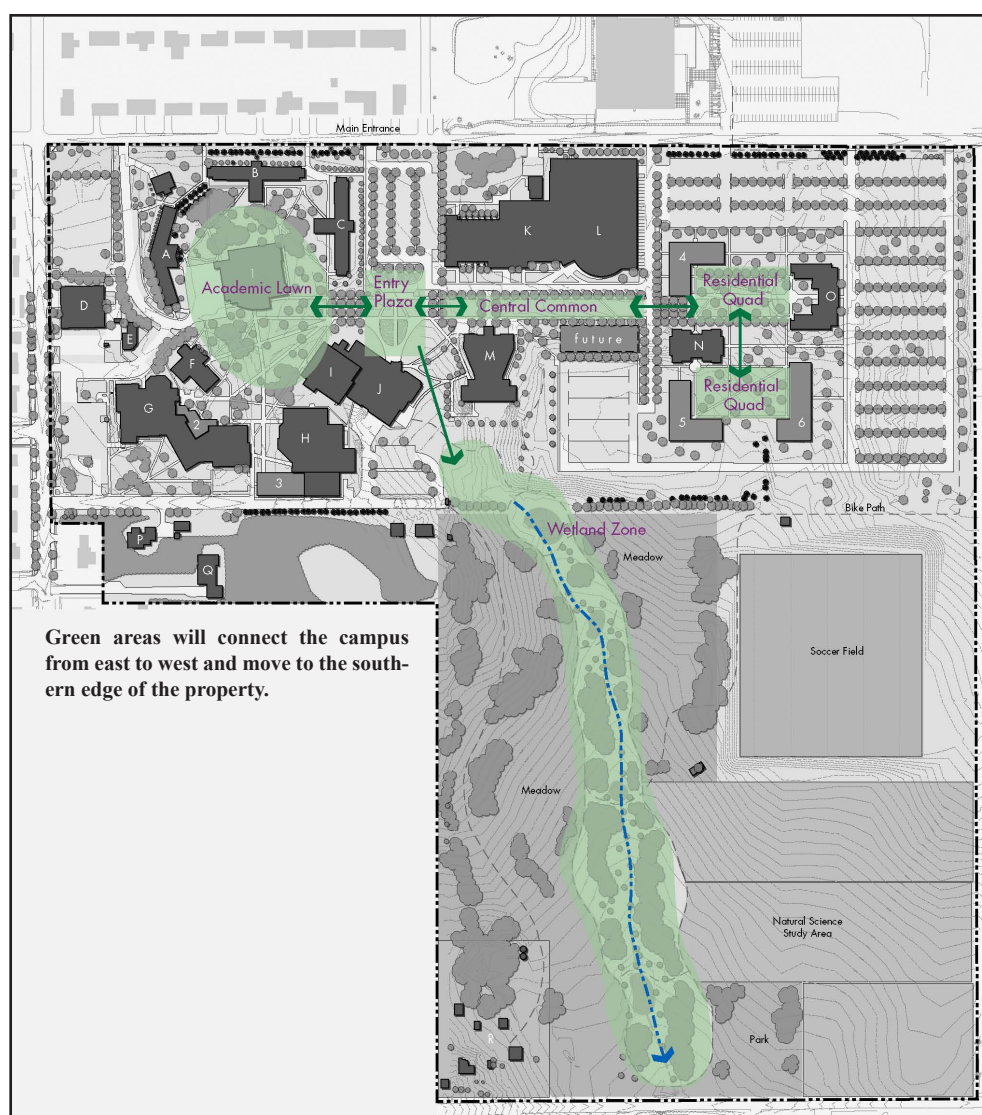
Please take a moment to give thanks today that fifty years ago on this date (March 1, 1955) the articles of incorporation were filed with the state of Iowa for a new junior college to be located in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Some time ago I asked the widow of the first employee of Dordt College whether, in her wildest dreams, she would ever have thought that the Midwest Christian Junior College would develop into what it has become today. Her response, as tears filled her eyes, "Never, Never."

Perhaps each of us could also use this day to reflect on where we (or our parents!) were on March 1 of 1955—and rejoice in the ways in which God also has amazed us through his providence and care by bringing us together in the common service we now share as part of Dordt College today.

On this fiftieth anniversary day of our formal beginning as a college, let us give thanks for those who acted on the vision God gave them to establish this college. But let us rejoice as well that, as always, God's plans are even larger than our hopes and dreams.

Green spaces to become prominent areas



Green areas will connect the campus from east to west and move to the southern edge of the property.

(continued from page 1)

the old labs into much needed classrooms and build new labs.

Facilities for the education department, which is the largest major on campus, have not kept pace with those of many other departments, Zylstra says. To best meet the needs of future teachers and to achieve the strategic plan's goal that Dordt College be recognized as a leader in K-12 Christian education, the college should build a model classroom, provide a place for a K-12 math and science lab, purchase new technology, and give the department a more visible home. Education faculty and the program would benefit from a designated space where students and faculty could gather and where resources could be shared, Zylstra believes.

The third area of focus and one that will receive early attention in the plan is the creation of more green space in the center of campus. The new plan clusters academic, residence, and public areas and moves parking to the perimeter of the campus. The academic green is on the west side, the entry plaza and central commons in the center, and a residential quad to the east. The green area will follow a waterway to the south end of the college property.

"The plan allows us to begin working toward a goal, beginning in small ways until funding becomes available," says Zylstra. He hopes that the major pieces of the plan will be in place within the next five to ten years.

Sewell pens major work on historian Herbert Butterfield

Sally Jongsma

Over the past two decades, Dr. Keith Sewell has read carefully the complete works of historian Herbert Butterfield—all eighteen books and over 100 articles, reviews, and chapters. Last fall, Sewell’s book on Butterfield titled *Herbert Butterfield and the Interpretation of History* was published by Palgrave Macmillan, a leading publisher of academic books. “The book gives a careful, critical analysis of Butterfield, in an effort to advance a consistently Christian approach to the study of history,” says Dr. Hubert Krygsman, Sewell’s colleague in the history department.

Butterfield is an important 20th century historian, especially for those interested in a Christian approach to history. Influential American evangelical historians like George Marsden and Mark Noll cite him often. Sewell, who is very interested in the relationship between belief, philosophy, and history was drawn to Butterfield’s Christian thinking on interpreting history.

“Christian thinking is best when it is offered by people who have hands-on experience with historical writing—and that is Butterfield,” says Sewell. But when Sewell began reading Butterfield’s work, he found it puzzling. Although Butterfield undoubtedly embraced a biblical view of history, Butterfield advocated writing “technical history” which he described as being free from a religious/philosophical/theological basis. To solve this puzzling inconsistency, Sewell read and analyzed Butterfield’s published and unpublished work, trying to understand what he meant by the terms he used. He came to believe that Butterfield was more consistent than he appeared at first glance.

For Sewell, Butterfield used misleading terminology to make a valid case.

“Butterfield advocated a Christian view of history not because it was neutral but because it was scientific,” says Sewell. He believed other interpretations of history placed too much emphasis on only one aspect of reality: Marxist interpretation overemphasized the role of economic activity, Liberal interpretation overemphasized the individual, Catholic interpretation overemphasized the role of the institutional church.

By “technical history” Butterfield was not calling for neutrality but for freedom from overestimations that distort rather than clarify, Sewell believes. Butterfield wanted historical interpretation to be free from superficial narrowness and oversimplicity.

One way Butterfield tried to ensure that a particular interpretation was not simplistic was to insist that even the most detailed writing was provisional—no one should presume to have the final word. A historian gains historical wisdom as he works, but he must always be aware



Dr. Keith Sewell was born in England and lived in Australia and New Zealand from 1969 until 1998 when he came to the United States and Dordt College.

of the limitations of his knowledge and how his historical situation as well as the subject shapes his point of view.

“So Butterfield always listened to dissenters—people out of the mainstream,” says Sewell. That approach makes a lot of sense to Sewell, who agrees that people, including historians, should always read multiple texts when studying a topic. “Calvinists ought to read what Catholics say about them to get a fuller picture and students of U.S. history ought to read what Britain and Germany and France have to say about them,” he concludes.

Sewell’s book is an academic analysis of Butterfield’s work and method, but he stresses that Butterfield’s writings have much to teach those who set policy and make decisions in our world. Yet Butterfield believed that looking for the causes of events almost always leads to oversimplification. It is better to think about interaction rather than causation.

“We all have some God-given cultural power, but we can’t control the consequences and effects our actions will have,” says Sewell. “Butterfield saw that when nations and institutions flout the God-given order of things, they don’t get away with it in the long run, despite the fact that they often don’t see immediate consequences for their sinful actions.”

For example, the nations of Europe presumed too much when they thought they could pursue the policies they had in place at the turn of the century without leading to catastrophe. The complex mix of German, French, Russian, and British presumption gave a dangerously brittle character to the situation, Sewell says. No one would give

way. War resulted.

Butterfield was deeply suspicious of the many ideologies characterized by a rejection of Christian teaching which arose after the French Revolution. He warned against ideologically driven foreign policy which he saw as fortifying national self-interest and which often plunges nations into war because of their sense of ideological righteousness. Over against such an approach he championed slow and painstaking diplomacy. Writing in the 1950s and ’60s, he feared that using the unconditional surrender model of the world wars rather than negotiated compromise could plunge the world into a series of hazardous global conflicts, especially in light of (then) emerging nuclear weapons. Sewell believes Butterfield would make his case as strongly in response to today’s world conflicts.

Sewell’s study leaves him with both disagreements and great respect for Butterfield. He agrees that when you do diplomatic history you can’t ignore the fact that nations are ultimately ruled by their creator and that going against the created order of the world creates problems. And although he doesn’t use Butterfield’s writing and terminology directly in his teaching, he definitely encourages his students to think historically about the complexity of interaction between people and institutions.

“Simple explanations are almost always wrong. Cultural reality is complex,” he says. He tries to make sure his students realize that fact.

Sewell admits that it is still impossible for him to read historical works without thinking about what Butterfield would think about them, but he’s also moving beyond Butterfield. He’s already embarked on his next book which he has tentatively titled *Evangelical or Reformed: A Question for Bible Believing Christianity*.

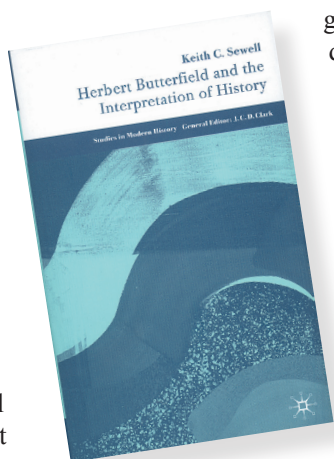
Campus Capsules

Dordt College invites twenty-four into Kuyper Scholars Program

Dordt College has invited twenty-four finalists to participate in the Kuyper Scholars Program (KSP), beginning this fall. Those who accept the invitation will receive a KSP scholarship and complete an eighteen-credit minor in interdisciplinary and theoretical studies and seminars.

Co-Directors Mary Dengler and Arnold Sikkema announced the recipients: **Kathryn Buyck**, Danvers, Minnesota; **Kimberly Deelstra**, Shoreline, Washington; **Amanda De Jong**, Goleta, California; **Kelsie De Nooy**, Denver, Colorado; **Connie DuMez**, Brookfield, Wisconsin; **Grant Dykstra**, Highland, Indiana; **Nicole Gassman**, Ames, Iowa; **Sara Hanenburg**, Milaca, Minnesota; **Jessica Hanko**, Albuquerque, New Mexico; **Ann Harman**, Marthasville, Missouri; **Tina Heilman**, Orange City, Iowa; **Melissa Kallevig**, Kandiyohi, Minnesota; **Robert Kangas**, Plymouth, Minnesota; **Ashley Kaspe**, Lansing, Illinois; **Erin Magnuson**, Wayne, Nebraska; **Claire McWilliams**, Champaign, Illinois; **Kyle Sanniec**, Chandler, Arizona; **Kylie Schafer**, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota; **Joshua Soodsma**, Hudsonville, Michigan; **Justin Vander Schaaf**, Baraboo, Wisconsin; **Geron Van Essen**, Lebanon, Oregon; **Janna Vermeer**, Maurice, Iowa; and **Katiegrace Youngsma**, Douglas, Massachusetts.

The KSP is designed to develop students’ scholarly gifts through a program grounded in a Kuyperian perspective. It begins with courses in Rhetoric and Christian Scholarship. Students then participate in and lead a number of interdisciplinary seminars, do interdisciplinary/theoretical projects, and design independent and group projects in (or outside) their major, which they present to the academic community. These projects will prepare them for leadership in the Christian and world community.

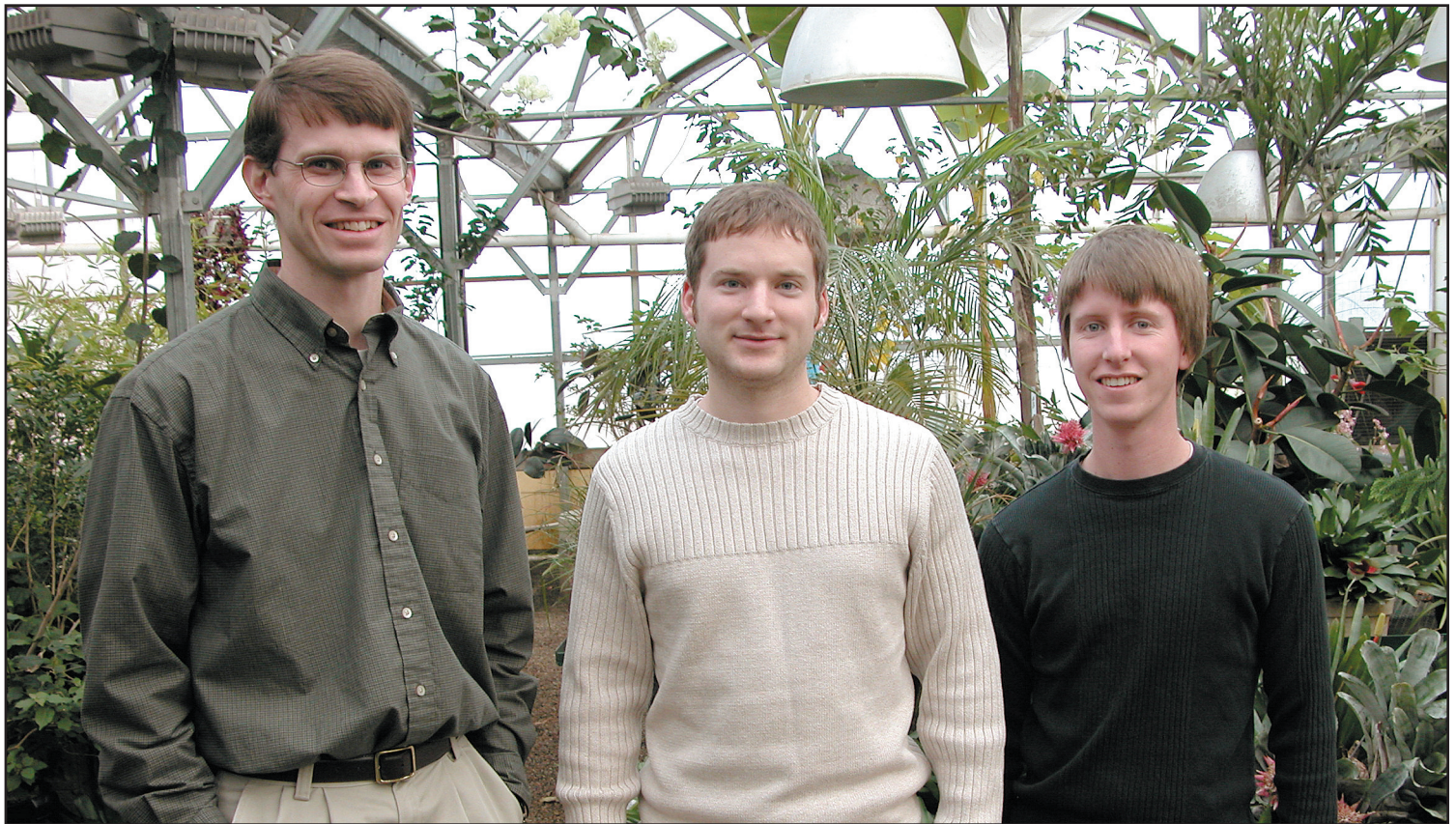


Distinguished Scholar recipients named

Distinguished Scholar Award recipients have been selected for the 2005-2006 school year. Seven seniors from across the United States were selected for this honor and the accompanying scholarships. **Elaine Hannink**, Modesto, California; **Heather Hooyer**, Sioux Center; **Ashley Kasper**, Lansing, Illinois; **Sarah Sikkema**, Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada; **Justin Vander Schaaf**, Baraboo, Wisconsin; **Julie Verwoerd**, Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada; and **Elizabeth Walters**, Gardner, Kansas.

Distinguished Scholar Awards are the highest recognition of academic excellence offered by Dordt's Office of Scholarships and Grants. Each \$9,000 scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman applicant based on his or her cumulative high school G.P.A., his or her score on ACT/SAT exams, and by means of an essay written during Distinguished Scholar Day activities conducted at Dordt College in February. This year forty-seven applicants met eligibility standards for this scholarship, which are a minimum 3.75 grade point average and a score of 30 or higher on the ACT.

The scholarship awarded to these students is renewable for an additional three consecutive years, based on continued good academic standing.



A grant awarded to Dordt College by the Iowa Energy Center will be used to design and build a biomass greenhouse heating system. Senior engineering students (right) Steve Daining, from Pella, Iowa, and (center) Nathan Docktor from Freeman, South Dakota, developed the system under the supervision of Professor Ethan Brue (left).

Engineering department receives grant to promote renewable energy

Sally Jongsma

The Dordt College engineering department was awarded \$7,000 from the Iowa Energy Center to promote renewable energy systems. The grant money is being used to develop small-scale demonstration units and host community workshops for anyone interested in exploring options for small-scale renewable energy use.

The Iowa Energy Center awarded the funding to Dordt's engineering department so that it could serve the public by sponsoring research and educational programs that encourage the use of renewable energy resources in the state of Iowa.

"The focus of this project is on small-scale applications, not on large-scale power generation," says Dr. Ethan Brue, engineering professor and project leader for the Dordt College grant. The target audience is small business owners, farmers, homeowners, and individuals interested in

renewable energy applications.

"The history of technology shows that technological change almost never comes from the top down," says Brue. He believes that innovative and lasting technological change will only take place when people from a variety of backgrounds share skills, experiences, needs, and ideas. Reflecting the mission of the Dordt College engineering department, Brue's motivation for pursuing this project came from a desire to better steward energy resources by designing systems that responsibly use natural resources in our community and that reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy resources from abroad.

Dordt College currently has a functional photovoltaic energy system and a solar thermal system that convert sunlight to useful energy. These systems will be upgraded with funds from the grant and serve as examples that could be used in the community.

Two senior engineering majors, Steve

Daining, from Pella, Iowa, and Nathan Docktor, from Freeman, South Dakota, designed and built a biomass greenhouse heating system. The system demonstrates how a biomass gasifier can be used for agricultural applications, including grain drying or space-heating. The first public presentation of this design was given as one of the annual Senior Design Project Presentations on April 20. Brue also hopes to draw farmers, business owners, engineers, technicians, and other individuals interested in renewable energy to both a summer demonstration and a renewable energy workshop in the fall. The demonstration units will continue to be an integral part of the engineering education at Dordt College in the years to come.

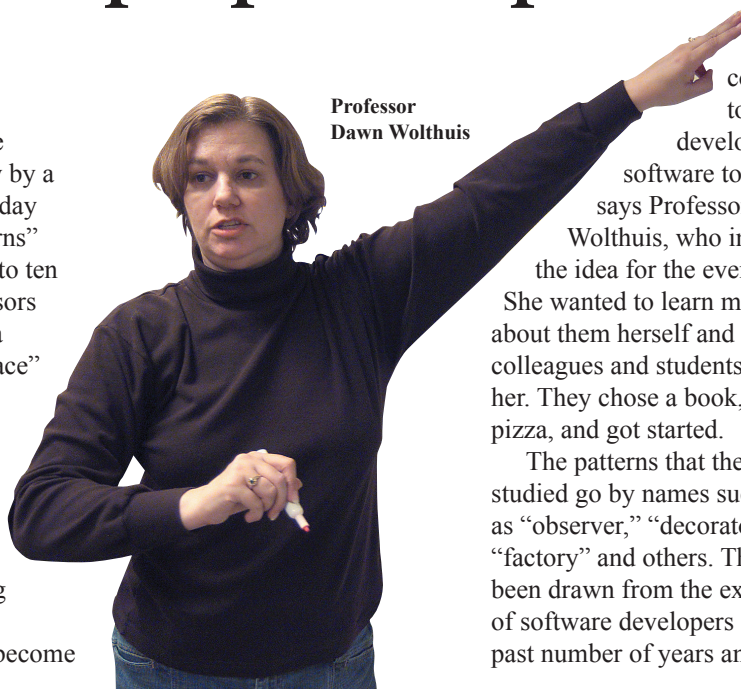
"Who knows what will come of it," says Brue, adding, "You have to start somewhere." His goal is simply to spark interest among the broader community to begin thinking about ways in which they can make better use of renewable energy resources.

Computer people mix pizza and patterns

Sally Jongsma

Not all students are motivated simply by a grade. The Thursday evening "Pizza and Patterns" gathering is proof. Close to ten students and three professors have been meeting once a week in the "Boolean Space" to learn something about software design patterns used in the industry today. The "Boolean Space," incidentally, is the mathematics and computer science meeting and study room.

"These patterns have become



Professor Dawn Wolthuis

common tools for developing software today," says Professor Dawn Wolthuis, who initiated the idea for the event.

She wanted to learn more about them herself and invited colleagues and students to join her. They chose a book, ordered pizza, and got started.

The patterns that the group studied go by names such as "observer," "decorator," "factory" and others. They have been drawn from the experience of software developers over the past number of years and are

becoming commonly used tools.

"They haven't really worked their way into the regular curriculum yet," says Wolthuis, but the students were attracted by the opportunity to learn some concrete tools that they would be able to use to write software. Spending informal time over pizza with others who share their interests and being able to list the skills on their resumés were bonuses.

"It offers another way to learn," says Wolthuis, "less structured but highly interactive." She believes it will serve all of them well as they develop new software.

Schour studies language differences between genders and how to better relate

Sally Jongsma

Rebekkah Schour took her education into her own hands this semester by doing an independent study that she believes will benefit her career in languages. A Spanish major, Schour is interested in working for the government as a translator, or in some position that allows her to bring people together through language.

Schour loves languages. In addition to English and Spanish, she has learned some Latin, Russian, and German and is teaching herself Greek at present.

“I want to learn as many as I can,” she says. “When you’re able to communicate with people you make them feel at home even if they are not in their own culture.” And knowing the language when you visit another culture shows that you respect their traditions, she believes.

“Each language is so rich and carries with it so much of its culture,” she says. That’s why she was prompted to study linguistics and chose to do an independent study researching language differences between men and women.

The idea for the research paper came while she was



Rebekkah Schour hopes to use her love and knowledge of languages to help people better understand one another.

studying socio-linguistics in Linguistics 201 taught by Dr. Leen van Beek. He is supervising her research this semester.

“I’ve always been fascinated by how language works in relationships between men and women,” she says. She is studying and observing ways

men and women use language and looking at how stereotypes and miscommunication come about.

Admittedly generalizing, she says she’s found that most literature agrees that men use language as an instrument, a means to an end, while women use it to nurture relationships.

Quoting Deborah Tanner, who has done much work in this area, she says men use language to “report” while women use it for “rapport.”

“Stereotypes are learned, and they can also be unlearned,” she says. That’s one of the things she hopes comes from her work. By being more conscious of how men and women use language she hopes that it will help her both communicate better and better understand others. She believes her research will remind her to ask herself “What are they really saying?” and “Am I reading them right?”

Raising awareness of differences also raises awareness of similarities. Schour believes that differences can be used to complement rather than cause conflict if people respect one another and are conscious of how people are actually communicating.

Schour presented a summary of her research under the title “A Tale of the Barking Cat and the Meowing Dog: A look at language differences in gender communication” to van Beek’s linguistics class and to the campus community during Ideafest, the annual two-day academic on-campus conference.



Dordt student speaks at physics conference

Barry Viss, a senior physics major, was a presenter at a conference of the American Physical Society in Los Angeles, California, on March 21. Viss was one of only ten students awarded a travel grant from the Society of Physics Students. He also received funding from the Division of Computational Physics. Viss spoke in a session dedicated to undergraduate research at the March meeting which was attended by nearly 6500 physicists. He was assisted in his three semesters of research and the presentation of his findings by his advisor, Dr. Arnold Sikkema, professor of physics.

Viss’s research was based on observations made during thunderstorms. He observed that after a lightning strike it sounded like there were a few seconds when rainfall intensified.

While radar would be the conventional way to test his observation, Viss wanted to research rainfall in a more direct way. He designed and constructed an apparatus that used a digital video camera and a strobe light to monitor and photograph a small region of rainfall near the ground. After examining individual frames and extracting information, he began developing an image processing algorithm to derive additional data from every frame of the video clips.

Viss’s research apparatus has proven useful in additional ways. With it, the specific diameter and velocity of every drop passing through the region can be determined, as well as the standard measurement of rain flux.

Individual studies takes Buteyn to the zoo

Jane Ver Steeg

Meal worms, crickets, and rats for lunch It might sound like an episode of Fear Factor, but to Jill Buteyn, it’s just part of feeding time, a daily routine for her as an intern at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls.

Buteyn came to Dordt College in 2003 knowing her goal was to work at a zoo. Through Dordt College’s individual studies program, she was able to create a major with an emphasis in animal husbandry, custom designed to fit her specific needs. At the same time, the blend of courses provides a strong academic foundation that will give Buteyn options if her career goal changes. Buteyn’s travel to Sioux Falls three times a week for the internship was covered through funds received through the Programs in Christian Vocations Grant.

Buteyn’s advisor is Dr. Duane Bajema, professor of agriculture. Bajema says the individual study course has been interesting for him because it’s allowed him to interact with professionals in another field of animal care, including Dan Brands, Jill’s academic supervisor at

Great Plains Zoo. In the past fifteen years, Bajema helped two other Dordt alumni, Ben Dekker and Rick Pausma, do practicums at the Great Plains Zoo, after they expressed similar interests in wild animal care.

“Jill is providing a service to the zoo, and the zoo is providing an academic learning opportunity for Jill,” says Bajema. “Zoos usually struggle with funding, so Jill’s work there helps the zoo, and she benefits from the supervised academic experience.”

Buteyn has been assigned to the bird and reptile area, where she helps with feeding, cleaning, training, and enrichment activities. Her favorite part is interacting with zoo residents, and she’s learned that each has a name and unique personality traits. Menus at the zoo are designed for optimal health of each species: in the meal prep area, Buteyn mixes rations with ingredients including live meal worms, crickets, smelt, cooked and peeled eggs, raw meat,

Jill Buteyn cradles a black-footed penguin at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls where she interned this past semester.



kohlrabi, spinach, and rats for the snakes and vultures. She’s also been involved in developing enrichment activities, which keep the birds entertained and active. Recently, an activity for the flamingoes involved poking holes in a cardboard tube, then filling it with crickets.

Buteyn also assists in the observation of the animal collection for signs of illness, general lethargy, injury or dietary problems, and she maintains daily reports, medical records, and a log of enrichment activities in her assigned area.

The Great Plains Zoo is split into four regions, with three keepers each caring for birds and reptiles; carnivores and primates; hoof stock; and African savannah. Buteyn said she’s always been drawn to cats, both domestic and wild, so she often visits the tigers.

Bajema said other components of the program of study include ethical issues of animal care, future employment issues, professionalism, work requirements, challenges to a Christian in this field, and how a Christian interacts in such a field.

“Jill has done a fine job, and is learning to deal with many challenges as she involves herself in this particular field of endeavor,” said Bajema. “This particular internship could lead to one or two more that will broaden her experience,” said Bajema. Buteyn said she’s hoping she’ll also get the opportunity to do an internship with dolphins.

Sports Updates

Baseball team falls to injuries

Battling injuries to key players early in the season, the Dordt College baseball team completed a 7-29 campaign, winning six of their games in the final three weeks of the baseball season. Chris Liebhart, a freshman, earned all-GPAC honorable mention.

Golf ends split season

The Dordt College golf team wrapped up their 2005 season with the Great Plains Athletic Conference post-season tournament. The Defenders play a split season in golf, playing in nine events in the fall and three in the spring.

Tennis teams finish third and fourth in conference

The Defender tennis team advanced to the GPAC post-season semifinals before finishing fourth at the conference meet. The Lady Defender tennis team finished third in the GPAC tournament, advancing to the NAIA Region IV tournament for the first time in school history. Sarah Matherly earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

Softball ends .500 season

The Dordt College softball team qualified for the GPAC post-season tournament for the fifth consecutive season with an 18-18 overall mark and a 13-11 conference record. The Lady Defenders upset the number two seed and the number one seed on the first day of the tournament before ending on the final day of the tournament with a 20-20 record.

Senior Katie Bleeker earned All-GPAC honors for the third straight year, and Tami Kaptein was named all-conference honorable mention.

Track qualifiers head to nationals

The track teams had successful seasons again this year. Senior Chris Fransman set a new high jump record at Dordt College by clearing 6'9 and qualified for the national meet in the process. Senior Dan Van Engen qualified for the national meet in the steeplechase with a time of 9:23.66.

The Lady Defenders 4 x 800 meter relay team of Lori Rowenhorst, Abbie Soodsma, Melissa Klein, and Jen Kempers qualified with a time of 9:30.12. The same quartet finished first in the GPAC meet in early May. Two of them also qualified in individual events. Kempers cleared 5'6 in the high jump and Soodsma won the 400 hurdles to qualify for the national meet.



Jennie Van Velzen, Todd Rowenhorst, Emily Van't Hul, Christo Haarhof, and Nate Sneider visited other wetlands as they worked on their project.

Campus wetland proposal provides students with a concrete project

Andrew De Young

Seminar on Creation Stewardship is the required capstone course for all students in the environmental studies major at Dordt College. Taught by Dr. Robb De Haan, the seminar emphasizes sustainable, just living and tries to help students move from understanding and commitment to stewardly living. Members of the class spend the semester doing hands-on research and analysis of a campus or community stewardship issue and then make recommendations that they believe could lead to concrete action.

This year's class presented the results of their project, titled "Restoration of a Wet Prairie Ecosystem on the Kuhl Century Farm" at Ideafest, an annual campus celebration of student academic work. The culmination of their semester's work was a design proposal that could be implemented by the college.

The proposal, according to De Haan, concerns college property on the far south end of the campus, the former Kuhl farm. De Haan's students designed a plan to use some of that land to restore a wetland ecosystem.

"The wetland restoration was part of the plan before we became involved," says De Haan. "My students weren't the ones who came up with the idea—they simply looked at ways the college could make it happen."

In order to do this, the students had to study, among other things, water flow and drainage on the property. They also considered what plant species they wanted to introduce to the restored ecosystem. These species include many prairie plants that are all but gone in a county drastically altered by modern agriculture.

"I found the work very enjoyable," says Nate Sneider, one of the students presenting the proposal at Ideafest. "This, I think, has the potential for being implemented in the near future, and since I'll be around for another three semesters, I hope to see the fruits of my labor."

Sneider adds that he feels that the restoration project will be beneficial for "all communities involved," both the Dordt and the larger Sioux County community.

De Haan echoes those sentiments, saying

Environmental studies students see value of policy making

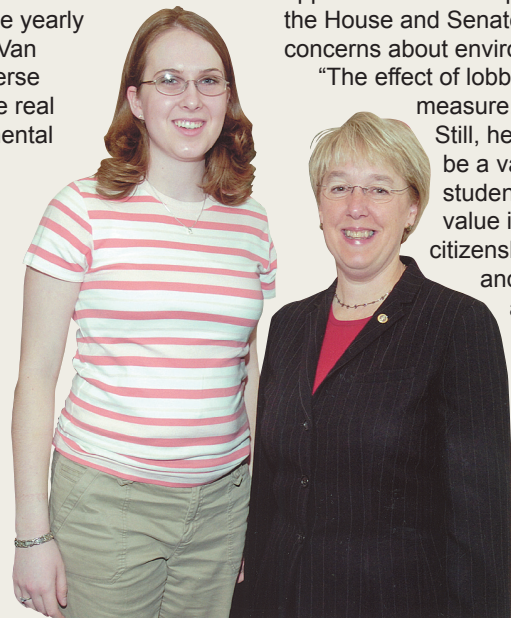
Professor Fred Van Geest's Environmental Policy class continued an annual tradition by going to Washington D.C. The purpose of the yearly trip, according to Van Geest, is to "immerse the students in the real world of environmental policy making, from a Christian perspective."

The trip's activities were planned in part by Peter Illyn, the head of a Christian environmental organization called Restoring Eden. The students listened to various

presentations about drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, received training on how to lobby, and made appointments with representatives in the House and Senate to voice their concerns about environmental issues.

"The effect of lobbying is hard to measure," says Van Geest. Still, he finds the trip to be a valuable one. "For students, there was value in exercising their citizenship responsibilities, and in expressing a Christian perspective on an environmental policy issue."

Denise Swager met with her congresswoman from the state of Washington while in Washington D.C.



that the project has been and, hopefully, will be beneficial on a number of levels. His students were given a valuable chance to do what most Dordt professors call "service-learning"—a project that was both educational and of value to others. And De Haan says that the actual restoration, if implemented, will be of tangible value to Dordt College.

"The wetland could provide educational opportunities for Dordt students for many years down the road," he says. "Future classes can spend time seeing how the ecosystem has developed—seeing how many species are thriving there or even introducing new species."

He adds that the educational opportunities extend beyond environmental studies majors. If proper signage and labeling were added, he believes that students in a general biology course or even students from one of the local schools could learn a great deal from the ecosystem.

More broadly, De Haan encourages these kinds of restoration projects because they are so close to his heart. Living in Sioux

County, he says, is often difficult for a teacher of environmental studies.

"This area has been quite altered by agriculture, and there are ecosystems that disappear as a result," he says. "As Christians, we are called to take care of the plants and animals that are part of God's creation. Hopefully we can give some of them a place to thrive."

You might call it "environmental evangelism," the teaching of Christian stewardship by example. De Haan hopes that the wetland restoration will provide inspiration for local businesses or other colleges that might want to do the same thing.

Both he and his students have high hopes, but as Sneider says, "Even if this is not fully implemented, I believe that much of our work was beneficial to open up ideas and discussions for the community."

Sharing ideas and wrestling with issues of Christian stewardship together—that was the point of both the course and Ideafest. De Haan and his students see their presentation as a valuable first step.

Raising money isn't hard when it's for a good cause:

Lyle Gritters ends thirty-six years of promoting the mission of Dordt College

Sally Jongsma

Most people shrink at the thought of asking others for money. But for thirty-six years it's been Lyle Gritters' career. As vice president for college advancement, the job of fund raising wasn't always easy, but neither did Gritters shrink from the responsibility. In fact, as he prepares to retire this summer he looks back with fondness and appreciation on the opportunities it presented.

"When you see how Dordt College serves the kingdom of God, you realize that you aren't asking for yourself or even just for the institution. You're asking people to help build Christ's kingdom," Gritters says. For him, that was motivating rather than intimidating.

And he's been successful. "Forward Thrust," "25th Anniversary," "Heritage 21," "New Horizons," "Dordt 2000," and the Campus Center Campaigns have all come and gone, as have Fall Drives and Spring Debt Reduction Drives. The millions of dollars raised have allowed Dordt College to have a significant impact on thousands of people across North America and around the world.

What started out as a one-man office has now grown to a staff of fourteen. In recent years, Gritters has spent as much time planning stewardly and effective ways to find that support as he did actually raising it. But one thing remained constant and important: he and his staff are first of all promoting the mission of the college, sharing its vision, and creating a better understanding of the needs, challenges, and opportunities it faces. They ask for prayers and moral support as well as gift support.

But fund raising was only one side of Gritters' job. Alumni and church, as well as general public relations, also fall under his supervision. All have developed and grown under his leadership.

Gritters came to Dordt in 1969 from Bell Telephone, young and inexperienced but convinced that Dordt was an institution worth working for. Then President B.J. Haan thought it was time to start a fund raising and public relations office for what was the decade-old institution. Gritters is still grateful for the mentoring he received from Haan during the thirteen years they worked together. Gritters says he gained from Haan

Advancement Mission Statement

Dordt College can exist only if it has a constituency that seeks its educational services and supports the institution through prayers, gifts and other support. God blesses the work of the college through constituents who use the services of the college and who support the college.

not only an understanding of a deep-seated Reformed worldview, but also of a way of treating people with love and respect, even in conflict situations. Those lessons have remained with him.

Development as a profession was in its infancy when Gritters arrived, especially at small Christian organizations like Dordt College. Almost all financial support came through churches, and funds were often collected by young people in the congregations. Gritters thought the new position sounded challenging and exciting, and he began the work of building relationships with people across the country.

"I was comfortable with the job from the start, but as I learned more about Dordt's institutional mission and vision, raising support for the college became my passion," he says. That feeling continued to grow.

The event that most shaped him and the way he gave leadership in the advancement office was the so-called AACCS crisis in the early 1970s. "It helped me understand what Dordt College was—and is—and clarified my role in the institution," he says. That role, he believes, is to provide support for the educational mission of the college. An advancement mission statement, for which he was primary author, describes advancement's role as one of building supportive relationships between the college and its constituents. Constituents are co-workers in providing Christian higher education, Gritters believes.

"I've come to see that what we do with our financial resources is an important barometer of how we live out our faith," Gritters says. In his experience, people often want to be challenged and given an opportunity to be part of the educational



Lyle Gritters always emphasized that his job was much bigger than asking for money. His goal and challenge was to help people understand the importance of supporting Christian institutions such as Dordt College.

process.

"I saw my job as giving people an opportunity to help them grow in their understanding of how God calls them to share their resources for the benefit of his kingdom," Gritters says. And he emphasized that that call is broader than Dordt College.

"All of us are sensitive about our money. We need to come to our own understanding of our responsibility," he believes. That meant Gritters spent his time convincing supporters of the importance of kingdom causes, not trying to talk them into the biggest possible gift or making them feel guilty for not giving enough.

"My greatest joy has been to have people thank me for presenting needs in a way that taught them to give—and often to give more than they thought they could."

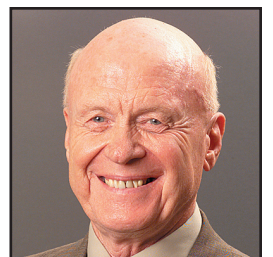
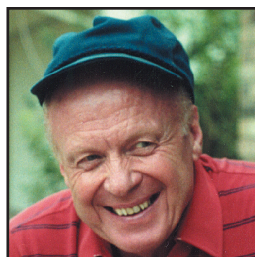
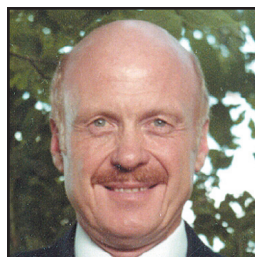
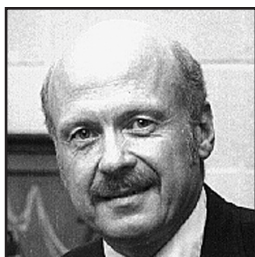
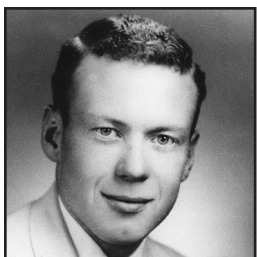
"Dordt has enjoyed incredible blessings," Gritters says, but as satisfying as such responses have been, they are not as satisfying as seeing how effective Dordt College has been in passing on its vision. As he and his staff visit people across North America, they hear this testimony from alumni and supporters and see it in the way many constituents live their lives.

The result has been a tremendous network of friends for the institution—many of whom Gritters also counts as personal friends, people who share a vision for Dordt College and Christ's kingdom. He says he has also learned from their loyalty and commitment to supporting kingdom causes and from their example as they live out their faith.

Although meeting the fund raising goals set by the institution was usually challenging and sometime stressful, Gritters learned to be confident that God would bless his staff's efforts.

And they were blessed. He will always remember the first major fund raising campaign, "Forward Thrust," for the chapel—now the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

"It was the first building we tried to raise money for and there was a lot of controversy over whether we should move ahead. It was a gratifying experience to receive literally hundreds of first-time gifts from people across North America," he says looking back. That successful campaign fulfilled Haan's dream for a chapel/auditorium and laid the foundation for the many future projects that Gritters would spearhead over his many years at Dordt College.



To the 3rd and 4th generations:

First presidents see God's faithfulness as their grandchildren graduate



Mrs. Haan delivers 2005 commencement address

Mrs. Deborah Haan, the wife of Rev. B.J. Haan and wearing his robe and hood, began her engaging commencement address by saying she felt somewhat like his substitute. It was a role both she and her husband filled many times—substituting for someone who was ill or for whom other pressing things arose. She told of the time Rev. Haan was to officiate at a marriage and serve as master of ceremonies. She substituted for him as mistress of ceremonies so he could attend a meeting that would turn out to be crucial in the founding of Midwest Junior College—the original Dordt College.

As one of a relatively small number of people who have been closely connected to Dordt College from its inception, Mrs. Haan retold the story of Dordt's early years, focusing on the commitment and dedication of people who made Dordt College a reality.

Using the title "The Past: A Challenge for the Future," Mrs. Haan concluded her address by speaking directly to the graduates: "Young people, I challenge you as you go on with your life to be those sons and daughters Peter talks about, who prophesy—not so much foretelling as forth telling in every way what it means to have graduated from Dordt College. Tell others what it means to be a covenant child of God. Tell others that Jesus Christ is Lord of your whole being. See visions in your chosen careers as you work in God's kingdom—his world, every square inch of it. As you grow older don't forget to dream dreams. And as you do this may God bless you abundantly."

They can't imagine that it's been fifty years already, until they look at their grandchildren and think of all the events, joys, challenges, and stories they've accumulated—stories they've kept in their minds, stories they've put down on paper, and stories they've told dozens of times.

Sally Jongsma

For Mrs. Deborah Haan and Dr. John and Mrs. Louise Hulst, Dordt College's Jubilee year has been an opportunity to remember, share, and celebrate something they've not only helped shape, but something that has shaped them as well. Mrs. Haan is the wife of Dordt's first president, Rev B.J. Haan, and Dr. John B. Hulst was the college's second president.

It's a special blessing that both the Haan and Hulst families had grandchildren graduating during this Jubilee year. The contact they have with their grandchildren has kept them close to the college.

"We're so grateful not only to have had the opportunity to participate in the growth of Dordt College, but to be able to see God's covenant faithfulness in the lives of our grandchildren," say the Hulsts. They see the same faithfulness evident in other families connected with Dordt College.

"You always have high hopes and dreams for your children, but those feelings are almost stronger for your grandchildren because you have more time to think about them and what they're doing," says Louise Hulst. "While we were raising our own children, we were so busy we often didn't have time to take the long view," John Hulst adds. Referring

I always knew that Dordt was something special. As a little girl, I felt like a celebrity having such a famous grandpa.

again to his grandchildren, Hulst says, "We hope they do well academically, but we especially hope that they catch the vision to love and serve the Lord."

The Haan family certainly felt the busyness that comes from building a

young institution. Rev. Haan was only in his thirties when he held two jobs—pastor and acting president—while he tried to help build Dordt College. And he had a young family of five children. Deborah Haan was always intimately involved in everything her husband did.

"He tried out all of his ideas on me," she says, grateful to have played a role in not only the beginnings of Dordt College, but also in her children's and grandchildren's education here.

How do they pass on the kind of commitment they have to Christian education and reforming culture?

All three say that it is by God's grace and by living what they believe.

Haan calls it a "natural nurturing." She tells stories about the past and she passes on to each grandchild a copy of her husband's memoirs.

"When [the grandchildren] come and talk to me, I try to show them what I believe and why," says Haan. She talks about events in their lives, things they're thinking about, and issues that they face."

"Through conversation and, we hope, through example," answers Louise Hulst, adding that conversations weren't usually a conscious effort to pass something on but a way of living that grew out of an interest in and concern for issues and events.

Prior to their retirement, many table conversations focused on life at Dordt College and on what a reformational worldview meant.

"In fact sometimes we had to say, 'We're not going to talk about anything related to Dordt today.'" But life is of one piece and their views about politics and community were shaped by the same worldview as their work at Dordt College.

"When I was little, we always used to go to my grandparents' house—the old president's house—after church," says Andrew De Young, who graduated this spring. "Grandpa and Dad would always talk about stuff that was going on at Dordt, and even though I didn't understand what Dordt was all about, I had this sense that there was something really important going on."

"That has stuck with me all the way—

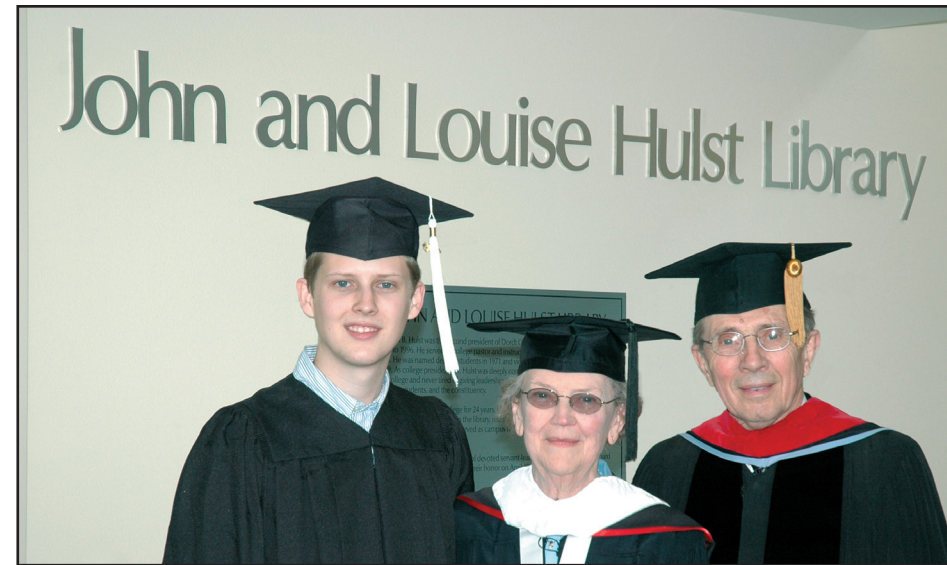
even though Dordt is plopped in this tiny town and most of the people working there are just normal folks, I always have this feeling that something really special is going on. Thus, when there are controversies or when someone's talking badly about a class or a professor, I'm the first one to jump to Dordt's defense, because even though there's a lot to criticize there's also something really good underneath it all."

Bethany (Haan) Van Raalte, another of this spring's graduates, echoes De Young's

Sometimes I stop and look at my grandpa's picture... I feel a lump in my throat as I wish he were alive for me to share with him how much I love it at Dordt.

sentiments: "I always knew that Dordt College was something special. As a little girl, I felt like a celebrity having such a famous grandpa. I thought everyone in the world must know who B.J. Haan is. When I would hear him on the radio in the morning, I imagined him climbing to the top of the KDCR radio tower to give his morning address (I later found out he broadcasted from the studio). I felt and still feel a sense of pride that my family could be instrumental in the beginning of Dordt. I realize now that Dordt isn't well-known to everybody and really I'm not so famous except to die-hard Dordt fans, but that doesn't diminish the pride that I have in my grandpa and my Haan family."

Dane Hibma, another Haan grandchild and 2005 graduate, says that even though he was only twelve when his grandfather died and never got to talk about issues with him, reading his memoirs, *A Zeal*



Andrew De Young is the first Hulst grandchild to graduate from Dordt College. Both Dr. and Mrs. Hulst were part of the faculty procession for Dordt College's fiftieth commencement ceremony.

for Christian Education, has made him respect, in a new way, his grandfather's passion and commitment, and it has inspired him to try to continue it. He enjoys listening to his grandmother tell stories about what happened to them in Dordt's early years, and he tries to understand what drove them to do what they did.

"I value the fact that she tells me what she thinks is right, without telling me what to think. She serves as a model, encouraging me to make my own decisions," he says.

The Hulsts and Mrs. Haan realize that regardless of what they do, their grandchildren, like everyone else, need to make the faith and the perspective on life they have grown up with their own.

"Sometimes they'll bait us into talking about an issue they've been discussing in the dorm when their friends are here, sometimes they'll call and ask our opinion, even asking occasionally, 'We don't believe that do we?'" say the Hulsts. So they help them think it through, believing it is part of the process of nurturing self-consciously Christian adults.

"We're thankful we're here for that," says Louise Hulst.

As they graduate, the Haan and Hulst grandchildren are appreciative of both the heritage and the daily support they've received.

"Now that I am a senior and have gotten to experience Dordt in all its richness, I feel even more strongly that Dordt College is a place to be proud of," says Van Raalte. I realize that my grandpa did not waste his time. I have received the quality education I asked for, and

then some. Sometimes I stop and look at my grandpa's picture on the wall near the entrance to the B.J. Haan auditorium. I feel a lump in my throat as I wish that he were alive for me to share with him how much I love it at Dordt. I wish he could know that at Dordt I found a major that suits me, stretched myself intellectually and spiritually, met lifelong friends and a lifelong mate with whom I share common beliefs. I know he would be proud of me—he might've given me a 'bop on the beeper' to show his affection. I'm glad I can share it with my grandma, Deborah Haan. I know she was behind my grandpa all the way."

"I think it's wonderful to research and study in a library named after my grandparents. I was so proud of them when that

happened," says De Young. "And I think that my Grandpa, even though he doesn't work for the college, has been one of my best teachers over the past four years here. He likes to talk about intellectual things with me—what I'm learning in my classes, current events, exciting ideas that either of us have read about—and his passion for bringing Christ's redemption to the world is always so evident."

Hibma has become more and more convinced that Christians need to wrestle

That has stuck with me all the way . . . I always had this feeling that something really special is going on.

with issues to work out what it means to live as a Christian—just as his grandfather did. He also likes the fact that, like him, his grandfather was a philosophy major.

The Hulsts continue to enjoy the conversations they have with their grandsons and their grandsons' friends. Such conversations with students are one of the things they miss most in retirement. John Hulst was dean of students for many years and spent countless hours talking with students. As librarian, Louise Hulst also came to know many

Dordt College students.

"They take care of me while I'm away from home, and they take care of my friends, too!" says De Young. "We're all pretty busy, but we go to their house for Sunday dinner occasionally, and I think that my grandparents like to take my friends under their wing—Grandma always gives everyone a hug as they come in the door. They like my friends, but I think that they like to check up on us, too. They want to know that the vision they had for Dordt College is still around now that they're gone, and they're happy to see kids going out into the world with that vision in hand."

But even though Mrs. Haan and the Hulsts are no longer on campus, they still have an impact. Mrs. Haan offered the commencement address in May, and Dr. Hulst presented one of eight academic Jubilee convocations this year.

De Young says his grandfather's convocation address gave him a sense of peace about next year, even though he's not quite sure where he will be.

"Grandpa said that we're called to be stewards of the creation, specifically the part of creation God has entrusted us with. I think that sums up Dordt College's vision in a nutshell, and it's a vision that is both a challenge and a comfort. It tells me to reach for the stars, but it also implies that if I don't quite make it that high, God will be happy if I am faithful with whatever I get."

At that convocation Andrew De Young and his friends joined his grandmother in the pews in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Andrew's friends all told Dr. Hulst how much they appreciated his lecture. Andrew's brother Brian was the organist for the event. In a conversation afterward,

Brian, an accomplished organist, echoed Andrew's sentiment and said to his grandfather, "My friends all told me they thought you did a good job." To which John Hulst replied, "And my friends all told me *you* did a good job."

John and Louise Hulst smile as they tell the story, and say once more how thankful they are to be able to witness God's faithfulness in the life of Dordt College and its students.

Mrs. Haan poses with her grandchildren who graduated in May: Dane Hibma and Bethany (Haan) Van Raalte and Bethany's husband, Donald Van Raalte.



Len Rhoda concludes forty-two years of teaching

Sally Jongsma

It's hard to find anyone at Dordt College who doesn't like Dr. Len Rhoda. Rhoda, who retires at the end of this academic year, is appreciated for the warmth and care he shows to students and colleagues alike. He's been a part of the college community since 1970.

"Fantastic years, very rewarding, most enjoyable," he says, summing up his career in the HPER (Health, Physical Education, and Recreation) department. He can't believe they're over already.

"It's a privilege to teach at a Christian college where a Christian perspective shapes not only classes but also the sports program," he says. He knows that students appreciate the Christian environment too.

"Coaches traveling with their teams hear students talk about everything and everyone," Rhoda says. "Over the years I've heard many comments about Dordt College and its professors. Students appreciate how helpful most faculty members are and how interested they are in their students." That makes Rhoda proud to be a Dordt College faculty member.

But Rhoda is also proud of Dordt's athletes. They represent a broad cross section of majors and work hard at both their studies and their sport, he says.

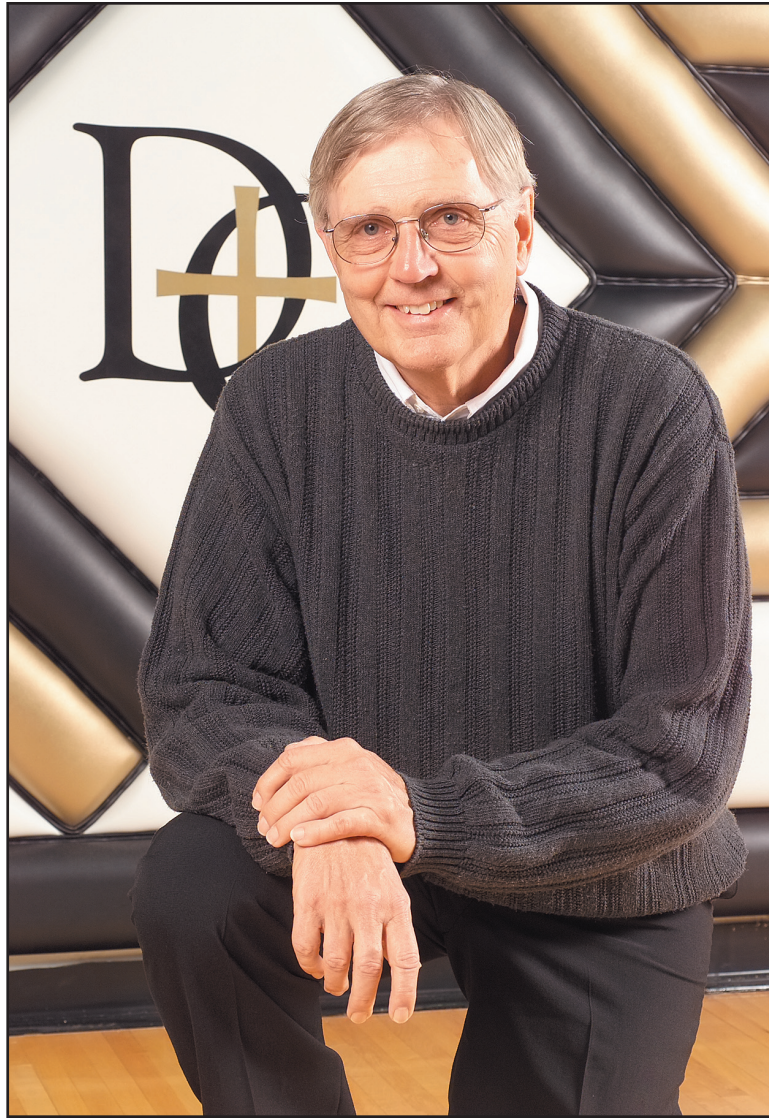
Most Dordt College athletes are good students—some excellent students—who, after their four years here, move on to professions in their major. Participating in sports along the way serves them well, he believes, building character and good habits.

He believes it did so in his life.

"Besides the joy of participating in activities in which I had some skill, I gained valuable lessons: the hard work needed both personally and as a team to reach a goal, the cooperation necessary for team play, the process of determining individual roles on a team, and dealing with the sheer joy of success or the reality of total disappointment," he says.

Rhoda retires this year after forty-two years of teaching—thirty-four of those years at Dordt College. During those years, his primary responsibility has been teaching elementary school physical education and health to future teachers. He's enjoyed almost every minute of it. Rhoda also coached first the men's and then the women's basketball teams. He gave up basketball coaching four years ago, but he continues to coach the men's tennis team and has taken on the women's team as well.

While Rhoda acknowledges that he's had his share of losses—which he admits haven't always been so easy to



Len Rhoda has coached dozens of teams in several sports during his thirty-four years at Dordt College. His longest tenure was with the women's basketball team.

take—he is convinced that good communication between a coach and his athletes is crucial to good coaching.

"Athletes need to understand their role and know your expectations for them if they are to play as a team," he says. "The more you

talk to your players the more successful they will be."

As Rhoda nears retirement, he says he'd choose the same career if given the choice. The stories he tells make it easy to believe him. He recalls Jackie Van Leeuwen and the rest of the team waitressing one night at a truck stop in South Dakota while they were snowed in because the Interstate was closed. He chuckles as he remembers the time Marla Habben and Terry Schouten received speeding tickets while coming home—after he asked them to get home fast because he had a bad headache. He sheepishly admits that in thirty-four years of driving athletic teams, he's never had a ticket, but every time he goes to Sioux Falls, he's careful because Marla is now a police officer and that ticket was the only blemish on her record.

He smiles as he recalls Shelli Van Ginkel stepping off the free throw line in front of a very vocal opposing crowd in their gym. After pausing to flash them a big smile, she returned to the line, sank both shots, and earned the opposing team's cheers instead of taunts.

These memories and others too numerous to tell give a good picture of Rhoda's teams, his coaching, and the kinds of students he worked with. He reiterates, "I'd do it all over again."

Family, education, service motivate Stacy Schaap

Andrew De Young

To most people, Stacy Schaap's college career may look a little abnormal. When most students were wrapping up high school, making college visits, and looking to graduation, she was planning a wedding and, later, having a child. But Schaap rarely thinks of herself as abnormal—she's too busy juggling her roles as a wife, mother, and student to bother much with that.

"It was a hectic time," she says, recalling the months before she came to Dordt. "But I wasn't really into my wedding planning like some other girls are, and my mother-in-law did a lot of the work. That made it a lot easier."

The statement is made matter-of-factly, and without any trace of bitterness or regret. It's almost as if she doesn't find anything unusual about going to college married, or anything difficult about taking classes with a child at home. Don't be fooled—Schaap is anything but typical, and if it had been someone else who had to start their freshman year with a husband and child, they would probably have decided that college wasn't for them.

Schaap shrugs. "I guess I've always planned on going to college," she says.

"My parents have drilled it into my head ever since I was young. Plus, if I hadn't done it right away, who knows if I would have gone to college at all?"

You might say that she felt a calling to be a student. It was a calling that led her down a difficult road, since she was also called to be a mother and a wife at the time. Part of the difficulty has been simply juggling her different roles.

"There are some days I plan almost down to the minute," she says. "Usually, something has to go, and that something is usually housecleaning." She laughs.

But she says one of the most difficult things about being a wife, mother, and student, is the campus community that she couldn't be a part of.

"There are all these activities on campus that I missed out on," she says. "Things like intramurals and weekly praise and worship. I just wouldn't feel comfortable going to those things."

When she was a sophomore, Schaap received another calling that only served to



Schaap

make her life busier.

"That's when I decided to go into nursing," she says. "As far as my schedule is concerned, it wasn't the best choice—nursing students at Dordt drive to Sioux City a lot. But I enjoyed the classes, so I never reconsidered."

Schaap says that the decision was made, in part, because of the time she spent in the hospital when her first child was born. She remembers one nurse in particular from that time, a nurse who made her stay much better than it could have been. It's a powerful experience that has stuck with her.

"As a nurse, you are helping somebody at a vulnerable time," she says. "It's a time when people need comfort, when they look to God. That's when a good nurse can be a powerful influence."

Now finished with her four-year nursing degree, Schaap has had many opportunities to be that influence herself. At one point, she was working as a nurse's aid in assisted living at Crown Pointe, a nursing home in Sioux Center. In addition to taking care of people's physical needs, she's also been able to be a help for them in times of trouble and doubt.

"In this community, it's safe to assume the faith and values of some of the people

in assisted living," she says. "They sometimes ask me to pray with them, and there are other times when I offer."

Stacy is aware, too, of the powerful witness that she could be to people who don't share her faith. She says she's eager to be in that kind of situation, a situation where her actions could be a powerful source of healing and a witness to people who don't know the Lord.

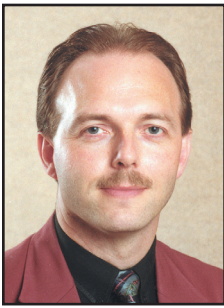
"It would be nice to have the challenge," she says.

Perhaps sometimes in the future, she will. For now, she's busy at Crown Pointe—they've turned her work there into a full-time job. As for the testimony of her actions, her children are the ones benefiting for the time being.

"There have been a lot of times when I've wanted to be home more for them," she says. "But in the long run, it's better for me and my kids that I have an education, that I work."

It's the same kind of message that her own parents "drilled" into her head ever since she was young—the importance of family, the necessity of education, and the joy of service. It's a message that Stacy Schaap hopes will come through just as strongly for her own children as it did for her.

Foreign Language Professor **Dr. Leendert van Beek** completed a Dutch translation of a collection of sermons by the English revival preacher Charles H. Spurgeon. The volume, titled *Kerst en Pasen (Christmas and Easter)*, is van Beek's fifth volume in the series, and is published by Boekhout Publishers, the Netherlands.



van Beek

Dr. John Vander Stelt's review of A. Troost's *Philosophy of the science of faith. Introduction to theology (Vakfilosofie van de geloofswetenschap. Prolegomena van de theologie)*, 2004, 484 pages, appeared in the spring issue of *Philosophia Reformata*, a refereed quarterly journal of the Association for Christian Philosophy in the Netherlands. Some of the central ideas in Troost's book have had a formative influence on the worldview articulated in the "Statement of Purpose" of Dordt College, says Vander Stelt, emeritus professor of philosophy.

Dr. James Vanderwoerd, associate professor of social work, has been named to the eighth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* © 2003-2004.

Vanderwoerd presented a paper titled "Threat from the South: Implications of Religion for Canadian Social Welfare" at the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work annual conference held May 29 - June 1 at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. The CASSW conference is held in conjunction with the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr. Matthew Dressler, assistant professor of engineering, has had an article published which describes research to determine whether mesenchymal cells from younger rabbits was more effective in repairing tendons than the same kind of cells from older rabbits. Dressler and his co-authors concluded that it wasn't. Citation: "Effects of age on the repair ability of mesenchymal stem cells in rabbit tendon." *Journal of Orthopaedic Research*



Dressler

Volume 23, Issue 2, March 2005, Pages 287-293, M.R. Dressler, D.L. Butler and G.P. Boivin.

David Wilcox from the psychology department presented a paper at the Christian Association for Psychological Studies International Conference in Dallas, Texas, in April. The title was "Issues in Integration: A Comparison of the Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change and the Evangelical Protestant Doctrine of Christian Conversion."



Wilcox

Wilcox also co-wrote an article that will appear in the summer issue of the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*. Its title is "Philosophical Foundations for Integration: A Response to de Oliveira."

Wilcox spoke on "The Relationship between Depression, Spiritual Maturity, and Adaptation to College in Dordt Freshmen" at the 2005 Siouxland Social Science Research Conference, held at Dordt College on April 28.

Dr. Sherri Lantinga, professor of psychology, gave a poster presentation titled "Ethnography meets Hollywood: Analyzing Film Scenes to Study Social Psychology" at the annual meeting of the Midwest Institute for Students and Teachers of Psychology. Two senior psychology students, Tara Dekkers and Karissa Stel, went along to experience the climate at a professional conference.



Lantinga

In reflecting on the experience Stel said, "At Dordt, psychology is one way to glorify God through redeeming this corner of his creation. Outside this perspective, as I observed at MISTOP, psychology is often about self-promotion....This conference was an eye-opener to me. I'm thankful for the foundation that Dordt and my psychology professors have given me through the years so I see psychology as part of God's creation."

David Versluis, professor of art, gave an academic paper at a conference on past and

current developments in design education, held at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, April 8-10. The title of his paper was "What Directs Graphic Design?"

With a grant from the Iowa College Foundation, funded by the Carver Trust, Versluis will spend part of his summer working with Pulluin Software developers in Vermilion, South Dakota, to help him gain the background needed to build online public access for art students' portfolios. The grant allows Versluis to get further on-the-job training in web development and interactive design.

Dr. James C. Schaap spoke with the Zeeland, Michigan, Second Reformed Church book club about his novel *Touches the Sky* on April 16. Schaap also spoke on *Touches the Sky* and attended the Annual Dakota Conference, The Center for Western Studies, at Augustana College, April 22 and 23.

Dr. John Van Dyk, director of the Center for Educational Studies, spoke on Christian education at the Coalition for Christian Outreach Jubilee in Pittsburgh on February 18. On April 8-9, he gave five presentations on Christian teaching at conferences held at Iowa State University and in Marshalltown, Iowa. These presentations were organized by Christian Educators Association International which serves Christian teachers in public schools.

On April 16, Van Dyk, together with Anne Maatman of IAPCHE, led the annual IAPCHE/CES consultations in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to explore ways of coordinating international educational activity. More than twenty agencies and organizations were represented.

Dr. Wes Jamison, professor of agriculture, was asked to serve on the Education and Workforce Development committee of the Biosciences Alliance of Iowa. The Alliance is a committee of the Iowa Department of Economic Development with members from the academic, business, and government sectors working to develop the biosciences industry.

The Alliance is divided into committees to carry out the work plan developed by the steering committee. The committee on which Jamison serves is further divided into four categories: private colleges and universities, community colleges, the private sector, and public education. He is the representative of the private colleges and universities of Iowa committee which is charged with supporting an educational system that creates the talent pool necessary for the industry.

Altena explores how women students learn

Director of Residence Life, Sandi Altena recently completed a study in which she explored how female students learn best. Altena explored the experience of female students in a college classroom. She interviewed females in their senior year and faculty



Altena

whom they identified as "powerful classroom instructors."

Interestingly, the instructors chosen by the student participants were predominantly female.

The participants in the study described what they considered a powerful classroom. Essentially, they described a classroom that provides "emotional space": people are aware of each other; they are patient and exploratory in their conversations; they show verbal and physical expression; they speak and listen with empathy; and they are perceptive of others' feelings. Such a "connected" classroom values intuitive knowing as well as past knowledge and experiences.

Research suggests that these characteristics may be more important to females than males, says Altena. So problems may arise when there are more male than female faculty members employed at colleges and universities. Stereotypical perceptions that many female students have of male instructors complicate the issue. In Altena's study, female professors were seen as more perceptive and affirming, better able to "read" people, and better able to create an emotionally less intimidating atmosphere. Male professors were considered less perceptive, quicker to bring closure, and less apt to give voice to subjective knowing in their classrooms.

Altena believes that her study is relevant for Dordt College where, as in most institutions, the majority of professors are male and more than half of the students are female. If it is true that women learn better in "connected" classrooms, male professors in particular may want to consider how they can make their classrooms more connected and less intimidating, says Altena.

"Females quickly lose their voice in a dominating setting," she says. She believes that connected classrooms do a better job of seeing human beings as image bearers of God. "The relationship that is fostered in a connected classroom can become a birthing room for a new social order," says Altena. Ultimately, she believes, it can give birth to kingdom activists.

Barb Hoekstra helps professors find Christian teaching methods

Middle school teachers are always masking how well their teaching strategies are working. And middle school is where Education Professor Barb Hoekstra began her teaching career. Today there are valuable resources on teaching Christianly in K - 12, she says, but few resources on teaching Christianly for college teachers. So she tackled the subject in her doctoral dissertation.

Drawing on the work of Dr. John Van Dyk and Dr. Harro Van Brummelen, who have written for K - 12 teachers, Hoekstra embarked on her study under the title "Defining the Phenomenon of Teaching Christianly at a Christian College: A Study Conducted at Dordt College."

Hoekstra interviewed ten Dordt College



Hoekstra

faculty members known as good teachers, who are committed to teaching out of their Christian perspective and who are highly respected by their peers. The conversations confirmed for

Hoekstra that Dordt College faculty are mission-minded and count on each other to work out of a shared vision.

"It's a wonderful strength," says Hoekstra. But as in most colleges, emphasis is placed on curriculum and mission. How

to teach Christianly usually comes through collegial interaction, trial and error, self-reflection, and student evaluations. Little is written on the topic to assist professors in their teaching.

What came across clearly in Hoekstra's interviews was an unashamed emphasis on teaching that they hope transforms student's lives. What didn't come through was a model for teaching that way. In her dissertation, Hoekstra begins to propose a model, built on the conceptual framework of Van Dyk and Van Brummelen and on processes gleaned through her research of educational literature. She hopes it will be a start in helping Christian college faculty come to more conscious ways of teaching Christianly.



Dordt Bookstore now offers web shopping

A new website for the Dordt College Bookstore was unveiled April 26, offering alumni, parents, and friends around the world the convenience of shopping from their home computers.

Located at <http://bookstore.dordt.edu> the Dordt Bookstore runs on an automated inventory system that adds new merchandise as it arrives in the store. Customers may purchase items with their credit cards and have purchases shipped or arrange to pick up their orders to avoid a shipping fee.

Bookstore manager Lora De Vries said in its opening day the new website already had a couple orders, and she expects demand to increase as people begin to discover the new improved e-commerce capabilities of the site.

"A website offers a lot of advantages over a hard print catalog," commented De Vries regarding internet marketing. "It's faster and easier to update and offers customers the comfort of shopping from their homes. That's important when you consider Dordt has students from thirty states, six Canadian provinces, and ten foreign countries." De Vries expects a rush of orders as graduation approaches, followed by Dordt College's fiftieth anniversary Jubilee celebration July 1-3.

Merchandise at the bookstore ranges from books and gift items to clothing, art, music and gift certificates.

The website also offers featured items, currently Dordt Jubilee memorabilia. To celebrate the rollout of the new website the bookstore is offering ten percent off your online order if you place the order by July 15. Simply enter the word "Voice" when asked for the coupon code and the amount will automatically be deducted from your order.



All of the large Dordt College music ensembles performed in a Jubilee concert in major venues in Sioux Falls, Des Moines, and Minneapolis (shown here) during the third weekend in April.

Experiencing Jubilee

Judy Hagey

It had been a demanding and at the same time exhilarating weekend. Nearly 200 students performed in three three-hour concerts on three nights. Jubilee concerts in Sioux Falls, Des Moines, and Minneapolis had drawn full houses and receptive audiences. And now on Sunday afternoon as we waited for the buses to rendezvous in the church parking lot, students (and at least one staff member) launched into a child's game of elbow tag. All the months of planning and hours of rehearsing over, it was time to relax, to release the tensions of a busy weekend at the end of a long semester; to let down and enjoy



Judy Hagey

being together, to soak up the warm sun from the pavement, to recall briefly carefree childhood games.

I'll remember it as one Jubilee moment in our Jubilee year. While there have been many rewarding and enjoyable times throughout this year, in this moment there was a sense of release and sheer joy that comes when we allow ourselves to rest in God's sufficient and abundant provision—a real Sabbath blessing.

If you haven't been a part of one of our Jubilee celebrations yet, I hope you will be able to join us for the final celebration here in July. But I also hope you'll find Jubilee moments throughout your life—moments that offer the joy of release and perfect rest.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Alumni & Friends Baseball Outings

San Diego, California
July 16; 7:00 p.m.
Padres vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 6; 6:00 p.m.
Twins vs. Boston Red Sox

Contact the alumni office for tickets.

Parents Weekend

Reserve October 21 & 22 for Parents Weekend on the Dordt College campus. Don't miss this action-packed time for family and friends. The schedule of events and registration will be available Aug. 15 at www.dordt.edu/parents_weekend/ or by calling 1-800-343-6738 (option 3)

Position Openings

To learn more about a position and receive application materials, qualified persons committed to a Reformed, biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a letter of interest and curriculum vita/ resume to:

Dr. Rockne McCarthy
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dordt College
498 4th Ave. NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697
Facsimile: 712 722-4496
E-mail: vpaa@dordt.edu
Web site: www.dordt.edu/offices/academic_affairs

Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and disabled persons.

Dordt College is seeking applications in the following areas:

August 2005

Business Administration (Possible Opening)

Human Resources and other fields.

Physics/Physical Science

Preference for candidates with ability to teach introductory astronomy and general education courses.

August 2006

Social Work

General BSW program with a focus on social welfare policy, child and family welfare, and research.

Youth Ministry and Biblical Studies

General education courses in biblical theology, a section of the first-term seminar, and courses related to the youth ministry emphasis.

Dean of the Chapel

Nurturing the spiritual life of the college community through preaching, teaching, discipleship training, worship leadership, and pastoral care (contact Sue Droog, Human Resources, (712) 722-6017 Fax: (712) 722-1198 E-mail: sdroog@dordt.edu)



Awarding scholarships is the best part of the job

Five members of the Alumni Council are completing their terms on the council. In their parting comments they share some of the highlights of their service. All express appreciation for Dordt's continuing commitment to the principles upon which the college was founded.

Sylvan Gerritsma

"It's the Perspective," says the headline on one of Dordt's recent promotional brochures. It's that Reformed perspective that still excites me about Dordt thirty-seven years after graduation. The opportunity to serve on the Alumni Council enhanced that appreciation. Each meeting, and the activities between meetings, impressed on me that the implication of Christian commitment is not merely sentimental heritage at Dordt. Rather, it is living, growing, and developing in academics, campus



Each year juniors are invited to apply for an alumni scholarship of \$1000. Each student is asked to write an essay describing personal background, Dordt experiences, and career goals. Pictured are Scott Beeman, Sara Gerritsma, and Amy Nugteren.

community life, co-curricular activities, and development.

Helen Bonnema

"The campus has seen some amazing changes since I was a student in the '60s. However, the commitment to educating students to live lives of service to God has remained the same, with many more programs and majors in areas to serve Him."

Nearly all council members find selecting alumni scholarship recipients to be the most rewarding and meaningful part of the Alumni Council. Members found it inspiring to read the essays of students who applied for alumni scholarships, telling of how God has been directing their lives.

Rhonda Vogelzang:

"My favorite task was

nominating and then voting on the Alumni Scholarship winners each year."

Sylvan Gerritsma (*who excused himself from the process this year*)

"It's an annual highlight for alumni council members to read these applications. They reveal solid Christian perspective and beautiful commitment to serving Christ and others in His creation. The least satisfying aspect of choosing recipients is that we can award only a few of the deserving students."

"The exciting news is that there are plans to dramatically increase the number of Alumni Scholarships—including plans to award scholarships to incoming freshmen from each of our eight districts."

As Helen, Rhonda, and Sylvan complete their service, they challenge fellow alumni to "continue to support Dordt with our prayers and contributions so we can encourage future

generations," as Helen says, and challenge Dordt, in Rhonda's words, to "continue to raise the bar academically and instill in students the burning desire to be lights in a dark world by daring to go into the world equipped with the Word and the Spirit."

Alumni Scholarship Recipients

Scott Beeman is from West Des Moines, Iowa. A business administration major and chemistry minor, Scott intends to be a veterinarian.

Sara Gerritsma is from St. Catharines, Ontario. A political studies major, Sara is interested in international relations and working for justice in politics and law. She plans to go to law school following graduation.

Amy Nugteren is from Pella, Iowa. With history and political studies majors, Amy plans to pursue graduate work relating to the intersection of religion and politics, hoping eventually to be a professor. (*Amy's essay is below.*)

Junior feels called to work for structural change in society

Amy Nugteren

I have been surrounded by the all-encompassing embrace of Reformed theology since my very first breath. I began my journey in Pella, Iowa, and spent the majority of my pre-collegiate years there, with only a small sojourn in Sioux Center while my father, Randy Nugteren, completed his degree at Dordt College. My mother, Brenda (De Boer) Nugteren, also attended Dordt College, and both my parents carried with them a heritage that stressed the value of Christian day-school education.

My early years were spent at Pella Christian Grade School, where my teachers always encouraged me to fulfill my true academic potential; their efforts showed fruit when I won the Iowa State Geography Bee in 1997, becoming the first (and to date only) girl to do so and earning the chance to participate in the national competition in Washington, D.C. After eighth grade graduation I went on to grace the halls of Pella Christian High School, where the faculty and staff stressed the importance of living out one's Christian faith twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. More particularly, my senior Bible teacher facilitated my involvement in the kinds of ethical and theological debates that characterize collegiate academics at a Christian institution. All of this learning was reinforced in my attendance at Calvary Christian Reformed Church, the church where I made profession of faith and that I still consider my home congregation.

My decision to attend Dordt College represented my conscious acceptance

of the faith and worldview that had characterized my younger years. I wanted a college that would affirm my passion for politics and embrace the opportunity to live that out in a distinctly Christian way, and everything about Dordt seemed to point me in that direction. I soon discovered that an interest in history offered me a richer understanding of politics, and I therefore chose to double major in political studies and history. The education I receive in each new semester of classes has served to constantly reaffirm my commitment to the Reformed worldview and my love of Dordt College.

For me the most compelling aspect of Calvinist theology remains its comprehensive structural claims. It is often tempting for Christians to ignore the injustices of this world by claiming a heaven-oriented theology that then negates any Christian political responsibility in this corrupt earthly realm. However, at Dordt College my professors have repeatedly emphasized that Christ's sovereign claims extend past Sunday worship into the nitty-gritty of daily life—including politics. Ameliorating the suffering of the homeless means not only donating time and money to a soup kitchen but also engaging in a concentrated political effort to eliminate root economic practices that contribute to unemployment and destitution. I find myself most profoundly affected by the work of Abraham Kuyper and his delineation of the doctrine of sphere sovereignty. By classifying politics as a fundamental aspect of creational order, Kuyper legitimates Christian involvement in politics without condoning unjust

political systems; rather, he prompts Christians to develop an alternative vision of society constructed on a solid foundation of biblical principles. In this same manner, Reformed theology interprets history through an overarching framework of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation, clarifying the purpose and direction of historical development and engendering a sense of contemporary relevance. If "the chief end of man... is to glorify God and enjoy him forever,"¹ then Christians have an equally urgent responsibility to engage in shaping history.

Spending a semester off-campus at the American Studies Program in Washington, D.C., gave me an opportunity for cultural engagement that contributed to the further crystallization of my own reasons for embracing a Calvinist worldview. Many of the students I met there had no conception of the potential impact of the imperative structural claims of Christianity on political life. I specifically remember one conversation with a fellow classmate in which I contended that the doctrine of common grace offers Christians a platform from which to lovingly engage non-Christians on a variety of issues. He had never heard of describing God's sustaining presence in this manner and commented that it was indeed a beautiful way of understanding God's relationship with creation. Reformed theology encourages Christians to adopt a transformed vision of political life that is radically biblical in scope and to work tirelessly for its implementation, despite the current structural impediments that are so readily apparent in our nation's

Capitol and worldwide.

In a year and a half I will, Lord willing, be graduating from Dordt College, and I passionately hope that the worldview I have developed here will continue to guide me throughout the rest of my life. I hope to pursue graduate work relating to the positive intersection of religion and politics, especially the latent possibilities for improving international cooperation with such a conceptual framework. I would like to employ this knowledge within the burgeoning field of conflict resolution, with the intent of someday entering the world of academia as a professor; if possible, I would like to return to Dordt College in this capacity. However, if I am led elsewhere, I intend to continue to advocate the comprehensive claims of the Reformed worldview, especially in the realm of politics. If I am blessed with a family of my own, I want my children to be able to immerse themselves in the same kind of educational and religious experience that has had such an impact on my own life. As President Zylstra noted in his GIFT address on Sunday, February 13, Dordt's Reformed emphasis produces students with the passions and gifts necessary to change the world, and I believe that it can also amplify the bold self-confidence, nourished by a spirit of biblical revelation, that will be the final impetus for the implementation of the radical reformational claims of the Calvinist faith.

¹ "Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 1," *Westminster Shorter Catechism Project homepage*, 14 August, 2003, <http://www.shortercatechism.com/resources/wsc> (accessed 14 February, 2005).

Ulrike “Rikki” (Mueller) Heldt (‘04) and her husband, Jeff, live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Rikki is finishing her first year teaching Spanish at Washington High School.

Carol (Hiner, ’03) Yates is halfway through a master’s program in marriage and family therapy at Azusa Pacific University. She is currently working as a trainee with foster children in L.A .County, as well as serving as a committee member on integration studies and conferences at Azusa Pacific. She is also exploring equine-assisted psychotherapy, which she hopes to use one day in a ranch setting.

Jeremy and Rachel (De Boer) Van Beek (‘00,’02) live in Doon, Iowa. Jeremy works at VBS, Inc. in Sioux Center as a mechanical engineer. Rachel is the primary room teacher at Doon Christian School.

David and **Heidi (Hilbelink,** ’00) Greenwood live in Lowell, Massachusetts. Heidi works full-time at Silicon Valley Bank in Newton.

After graduating from medical school in May, **Jason Koelewyn** (‘99) moved with his wife **Tami (Kooiman,** ’99) and daughter Alyssa to Sioux Falls, where he is doing his residency in family practice.

Dan and **Sonya Jongsma** (‘97) Knauss live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with their three daughters, Anneke (6), Claire (4), and Madeleine (3 months). Sonya is the assistant editor of *MKE*, a weekly lifestyle and entertainment publication of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

Paul DeBoer (‘95) is the manager of the Denver office of RGL – Forensic Accountants & Consultants, and has earned the Certified Fraud Examiner designation (CFE) from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

The CFE designation is awarded to select accounting, finance, legal and other professionals who meet a stringent set of criteria, including strict character, experience and education requirements. As a CFE, DeBoer is entitled to investigate and resolve a wide range of allegations of fraud and white collar crime, including the rights to obtain evidence, take statements and write reports, testify to findings and assist in all aspects of detecting and preventing white collar crime.

Shelley (Westerhof ’95) Toolis recently completed her master’s degree in school counseling. She lives with her husband, Tom, and her children, Sean (2 months) and Thomas (1) at Oak Forest, Illinois.

Evan and Darlene (Systma) Vis (‘90, ’90) moved to Naples, Italy for Evan’s job with the Navy band. For the next three years, Evan will be traveling across Europe to support the Navy’s mission there. Darlene continues to take care of Jeremiah (2), and homeschools Collin (8)

Myrtle Smits (‘59) is currently in her thirtieth year of



DeBoer

Future Defenders

Nick and Rachel (Mast) Negen (‘03,’03), Elijah Nicholas, 9/17/04

Randy and Juli (Rouw) Oostra (‘00,’00), Rayahna Jolyn, 2/16/05

Sean and Laurie (Hoogeveen) Covington (‘99,’01), Shannon Michael, 2/28/05

Trevor and Katy Mentink (‘99,’01), Gabriel Leroy, 2/5/05

Kevin and **Christine (Hospers,** ’99) Rosencrans, Peyton Renae, 6/13/04

Eric and **Tiffany (Brummel,** ’99) Van Baren, Kayla Ann, 1/16/05

Mick (‘99) and Koty **Vande Griend**, Lauren Sofia, 4/25/04

Mark and Karla (Rickey) Schlatter (‘98,’99), Benjamin Lawrence, 1/23/05

Brad and Erica Schelling Rozeboom (‘98,’98), Morgan Jane, 4/22/05

Henrik and Julie (Lodewyk) de Gier (‘98,’96), Sydnie Francine, 10/17/04

John (‘97) and Tracy **Andringa**, Lauren Julie-Ann, 2/7/05

Eric and Sally (Ebels) Baas (‘97,’97), Cameron Eric, 4/14/05

Nathan and **Carmen (Huisken,** ’97) Engbers, Carson Wesley, 2/25/05

Ron and Martha (Hoogland) Hulshof (‘96,’97), Cassidy Jane, 4/15/04

Dan and **Sonya Jongsma** (‘97) Knauss,



Madeleine Rose Knauss

Madeleine Rose, 2/7/05
Mitchell and **Rebecca (Gerritsma,** ’97)

Visser, Seth Michael, 12/14/04

Eric and Stephanie (Vis) Walhof (‘97,’96), Makenna Renae, 11/23/04

Daniel and Anne (Hoogeveen) Jasper (‘95,ex’97), Natalie Joy, 4/22/05

Edward and **Dawn (Bakker,** ’96) Berkelaar, Collyer Tad, 10/25/04

Curt and **Paula (Zwart,** ’96) Bollinger, Makenna Jayne, 3/12/05

Jonathan and Angela (Baas) Eerkes (‘96,’96), Benjamin Stuart, 4/3/05

Bryan and Cynthia (Dykstra) Santema (‘96,’96), Grant Hayden, 4/15/ 05

Wayne (‘96) and Tonia **Feeleus**, Jessica Faith, 8/20/04

Ryan (‘96) and Rachel **Schaap**, Dylon Jay, 11/25/04

Brian and Michelle (Kuiper) Wilganburg (‘96,’96), William John, 12/5/04

Donovan and Diane (Schinkel) De Jong (‘95,’96), Myah Anne, 12/3/04

Scott and Jennifer (Hekman) Ritzema (‘95,’99), Eilse Faith, 11/4/04

Tom and **Shelley (Westerhof,** ’95) Toolis, Sean Michael, 4/11/05

Tim and Sharletta (Postma) Vander Pol (‘95,’95), Julia Joy, 5/25/05

Daniel and Nikki (Van Wijngaarden) Hol (‘94,’94), Ethan Daniel, 3/3/05

Bradley (ex ’94) and Amy **Nyhof**, William Henry, 11/01/04

Brian and Lora (Blankespoor) Siefert (‘94,’94), Elizabeth Rose, 6/15/04

Jared and Ronda (Borger) Johnson (‘93,’93), Aaron Karl, 12/20/04

David (‘93) and Angela **Klompjen**, Jeremiah Owen, 3/31/05

Dan and Vickie (Broek) Steenhoek (‘93,’95), Austin Michael, 9/9/04

Kevin (‘92) and Dawn **Zandberg**, Morgan Kate, 8/17/03

Marty and Kris (Draayer) Vander Plaats (‘91,’91), Lauren Rae, 11/16/04

Jamie and **Jana (Meyerink,** ’90) Franken, Victoria Joy, 11/27/04

Brad and **Janet (Zylstra,** ’90) Vande Weerd, Jacob Bradley, 12/26/04

Darren and Darla (De Yager) Van’t Hul (‘90,’90), Dason John, 9/27/04

Dave and **Anita (Verbeek,** ’89) Schenk, Gabriella Lynn, 9/17/04

Wendell Alex and **Jacqueline Smit Alex** (‘87), Jenson Lloyd, 2/24/05

teaching. After many years in Christian schools, she now teaches in a rural public high school in Pinehurst, North Carolina. She says that the experience, although challenging, has been “neat.” She hopes to attend this summer's Jubilee celebration and looks forward to seeing old classmates.

Marriages

Ulrike “Rikki” Mueller (‘04) and Jeff Heldt, 5/9/05

Jeremy Jongsma (‘01) and **Dalida Meyer** (‘01), 3/12/05

Jeremy Van Beek (‘00) and **Rachel De Boer** (‘02), 12/29/04

Bryan Huisken (‘00) and **Pam Den Ouden** (‘00), 7/10/04

Grant Binford and **Rebecca Boon** (‘98), 12/4/04

Joshua Rogers and **Sandra Buxvoort** (‘96), 10/2/04

Juan Aragón and **Michelle Heibult** (‘95), 1/22/05



Proving that friendships at Dordt last a lifetime, these Class of 1996 roommates gathered in Chicago this spring for their first reunion that didn’t center around a wedding or a birth! Left to right: Lisa (Barry) Pierson, Kari (Smeenk) VerSteeg, Larissa Lighthiser, Kari (Vanden-Hoek) Westra, Beth (Kooiker) VanBaren, Gwen (Alberda) Bergquist

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I want you to know that I enjoy perusing the *Voice* to keep up on Dordt College. In the last issue, I particularly enjoyed reading the Plumblin from Jim Schaap titled “Baby Steps in Prairie Grass.” It would be fabulous once again to see an ocean of grass across an Iowa vista. Thank you for the vision it placed in my mind.

I found a couple of points troubling, though, and would like to provide some information concerning some statements in the article. It is correct to state that Iowa has the most transformed landscape of any of the fifty states. Humans have dramatically altered the natural environment around us. The book *IOWA – Portrait of the Land* by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, shows that by1900, Iowans had converted 95 percent of the original prairie, two-thirds of the woodlands, and most of the wetlands to agriculture. Today, we have less than 0.1

percent of our original 28.6 million acres of prairie, and less than 10 percent of our original 4.5 million acres of wetlands. Today 67 percent of Iowa’s land is in row-crop agriculture, 7 percent is grazed, 4 percent is farmland idled by federal programs, 3 percent is in roads and buildings, and 14 percent is categorized as “ungrazed grasslands,” which includes road ditches and grassed waterways.

Sioux County is extremely altered, but it is not the most altered county in Iowa. If you say ungrazed grasslands are an “altered” landscape, Sioux County comes in 4th at 98.8 percent altered (Grundy Co. is 1st at 99.3 percent), but if we limit the altered category to only grazed areas, row crops, roads, and buildings, then Sioux County is 5th at 88.9 percent (Calhoun Co. is 1st at 91.0 percent).

Sioux County ranks first in the state in the production of feeder cattle, hogs, and sheep; 2nd in milk cows and corn, and 3rd in soybeans. Sioux County accounts for about 5 percent of Iowa’s agricultural production.

The Dutch Calvinists of Sioux County are using the fertile soils and amenable climate to produce well, to “feed the world” and to exert their dominion over creation. But are they managing their lands lovingly? The production numbers do not tell the entire story. Sioux County also ranks high in environmental violations (1st) and fish kills (2nd). In 2004, Sioux County accounted for 27 of the 306 enforcement actions handed out by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for environmental damage. (Plymouth Co. was 2nd at 15). Between 1994 and 2004, Sioux County had 15 fish kills (Linn Co. - 19), of which 6 were identified as the result of spilled animal waste. Six Mile Creek, which flows west out of Sioux Center and down to Hawarden, experienced one of these fish kills in June of 1998. Two years later, in August 2000, Six Mile Creek still received scores of 2 and 10 following testing, two of the lowest scores ever recorded in Iowa. In general, scores of 0-25 are poor, 26-50 are fair,

51-70 are good, and 71-100 are excellent. Sioux County has had 5 samples taken in 10 years, and the average score is 23.6, with a high of 54 on the Rock River. The average for all other northwest Iowa counties is 36, indicating that Sioux County is below average in terms of care for the creation. The fact that Six Mile Creek did not recover indicates persistent water quality problems, which subsequent water quality sampling has revealed. Both Six Mile Creek and some tributaries to the Floyd River in Sioux County, are quite polluted, cannot regularly sustain aquatic life, and are often in violation of Iowa’s water quality standards for ammonia.

Our reformational worldview calls us to redeem the creation and to be leaders and lights in this world. This calling extends beyond music, philosophy, and education to include agriculture, biology, and ecology. God is calling, are we listening?

Jeff Kopaska, Class of 1992

Telling the Story



Dan Gibson ('75) was on campus in early May to pick up his son, Nate, a freshman communication major.

Dan Gibson takes on the complexities of prosecuting legal cases

Andrew De Young

The story of Dan Gibson's life is, like that of so many others, a story of missed chances and seemingly random changes. It's a story of a second choice—law school, to be specific—that turned into a lifelong career. But Gibson doesn't seem to mind. He enjoys telling his story, in fact, and even takes a great deal of comfort in the fact that he is blessed to be able to tell his story at all.

"My first love was for teaching," says Gibson, who graduated in 1975 with a degree in history. "Law school, to be honest, was my second choice—what I really wanted to do was go to graduate school."

In an effort to make that initial plan a reality, he had applied for a Danforth fellowship in the waning months of his senior year. When the fellowship went to one of his classmates instead, he had to make a new plan. It was a disappointment, to be sure, but it is also partially responsible for getting him to where he is today, with a wife, three kids, and a job as a civil lawyer in Washington's Whatcom County. It's a place, he says, that he wouldn't think of trading.

That's not to say that there weren't some bumps along the way. For the first two years after graduation, he taught at Chatham Christian Secondary School in Chatham, Ontario. There, he was involved in a variety of things, doing everything from teaching typing to coaching sports teams.

He smiles. "After my time there, you might say that the first year of law school was relatively easy." He can laugh about it today, but he also acknowledges that his time at the University of Washington Law School was one of the tougher chapters in his story.

"Law school was a place where people were challenged on a level that they hadn't been before, both intellectually and personally," he says, adding that two of his classmates committed suicide in the midst of their studies. "And these were bright, capable people."

It was in law school that he gained a

deeper appreciation for the education he had received at Dordt College. He says that he was amazed at the perspective he had been given on a wide variety of fields, a perspective that many of his fellow students hadn't been blessed with. However, he says that perspective wasn't always enough.

"The emphasis at Dordt is on engaging culture, and that's good," he says. "But engagement must proceed with a vital connection to a flesh and blood congregation. If you don't have that, you will not stand your ground." When he was in law school, much of his support came from First Christian Reformed Church in Seattle, a congregation that he says helped "keep my head on straight."

After law school came a short clerkship in Washington's King County, which helped lead into Gibson's next position as a prosecutor in the same county. And it was in this job—a job which, as a college student, he had never planned on holding—that he rediscovered his original passion for history and teaching.

"Criminal prosecution is kind of a rush," he says. "As an attorney, it's almost like you're on stage. But I found that what I enjoyed most was closing arguments—what you really had to do at that point was tell a story, weaving together all this evidence to tell it."

It is this storytelling aspect that has stuck with Gibson through his three years in King County, seven more years as a criminal prosecutor in Whatcom County, and now as a civil lawyer for a variety of public offices. As a former history major at Dordt, the storytelling aspect is something he finds fascinating.

"History is basically storytelling," he says. "For the believer, the constant challenge is to tell that story with integrity."

It's a challenge, he adds, that is particularly important for a lawyer—how do you tell the story in a way that justice is served? Gibson faced that challenge in a very real way when he prosecuted capital cases, one in King County and one in Whatcom County. In one case, he says, he and his team pursued the death penalty and got it; in another case, they chose not to

pursue the death penalty.

"You have to recognize the complexity of those situations," he says of both cases. "One had better take that with the utmost seriousness." He says that in the case where they chose not to pursue the death penalty, the issue was complicated by the mental illness of the accused.

"You looked at this person and knew that he was mentally ill," says Gibson. "You struggle with that internally—how should I tell this story to be truthful to the reality of the case?"

In such cases, Gibson recognizes that the judicial system isn't a heal-all. He says that there are much deeper issues at stake—that of mental illness, for example—that a lawyer has very little power to address. One of the times when he felt the limitations of the law most acutely was when he spent some time on paternity cases, in which he was employed to establish a basis for child support payments from deadbeat dads.

"You often wonder what it is you're actually doing," he admits, adding that all he did was establish a financial relationship, not heal a marriage or repair a broken father-child relationship.

Altogether, though, Gibson still recognizes the value of storytelling, both in his profession and in a much broader context. It especially has value, he says, for the Christian in today's society.

"I work in a setting where it is often illegal to give expression to your faith," he says. "But you're there, and you're a believer, and you know what the storyline is—the story of God's grace and his sovereignty."

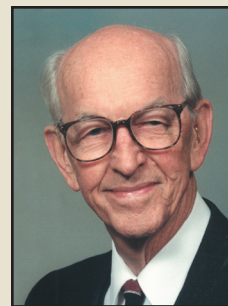
It's a storyline that has tremendous meaning in Gibson's profession, to be sure, but it has had great significance in his life as well. Unplanned as it may often have seemed, Gibson's life has borne the marks of God's grace and sovereignty, including the wife he never would have met had he not gone to law school, the children he never would have had but for his wife, and the son who has brought the story full circle by attending his dad's alma mater.

Altogether, it's a pretty good story. And it's a story Dan Gibson loves to tell.

In memory of Henry De Groot

Dr. John Visser

On Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005, Henry De Groot, age 88, passed quietly from this life to the next. Armed with an accounting degree, a CPA certificate, an MBA from the University of South Dakota, a couple of decades



De Groot

of business experience, and nine years of business teaching experience (at Sioux Falls College), Henry had started the business administration program at Dordt thirty-six years earlier, in the fall of 1969. From that point until his retirement in 1982, Henry campaigned tirelessly for the importance of offering pre-professional programs like accounting and business administration in the context of a Christian liberal arts education. He noted often that all people are routinely involved in "business" transactions and that a large percentage of the population is called to serve their neighbors via business organizations.

To make sure students received adequate preparation, Henry willingly taught courses in all areas of business, teaching approximately twenty unique courses during his tenure at Dordt. He also stressed the importance of applying "business skills" such as managing, promoting, and accounting to not-for-profit organizations, and requested that the scholarship started in his name by alumni at the time of his retirement give special consideration to students planning on working in not-for-profit organizations.

The seeds of Henry's early leadership and vision have produced fruit. The business department is now one of the largest departments on campus, and approximately 1,500 alumni serve their Lord and their communities in the United States, Canada, and several other countries.

Preceded in death eighteen months earlier by his wife Arnolda (Ruys), Henry is survived by his three children and their families, David and Dr. Irene De Groot, Ruth and Lewis Marshall, and Janna and Ron Van Driel, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The *Voice*, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The *Voice* is published four times per year to share information about the programs, activities, and needs of the college. Send address corrections and correspondence to VOICE, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1606 or e-mail to voice@dordt.edu.

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JUBILEE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 29

7:00 p.m. *Purpaleanie*

Thursday, June 30

5:00-7:00 p.m. *Pork Barbecue
6:00 p.m. Community Band Concert
7:00 p.m. *Vision at Work and Play*

Friday, July 1

8:00 a.m. *Conversations* with Dr. Carl E. Zylstra
8:00-10:00 a.m. Continental breakfast
10:00 a.m. “What’s Ahead for Dordt College?”
10:00 a.m. *Purpaleanie*
10:00 a.m. - noon Community/campus tours
12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:00-3:00 p.m. Office and department reunions
1:30-3:00 p.m. Community/campus tours
1:30-3:30 p.m. Intramural-style activities: Open Bowling, Volleyball, Raquetball

1:30-5:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m.

Vision at Work and Play

Music department recitals

Dordt College Memories Panel

“What’s Ahead for Dordt College?”

Artist Reception, Campus Center Gallery

Alumni Choir Rehearsal

Supper Buffet

*Cruise Night

Vision at Work and Play

Public Skate

*Rumbles Street Dance

Ice Cream Social

Coffee house and poetry reading

Saturday, July 2

7:00 a.m. *5K Fun Run/Walk

8:00-10:00 a.m.

8:00a.m.-6:00p.m. KDCR live broadcast

9:00 a.m. *Purpaleanie*

9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. *Central Park Arts Festival

9:00-10:30 a.m. Intramural-style activities: Basketball, Wallyball, Soccer, Tennis
Alumni hockey games
Art Walk

“What’s Ahead for Dordt College?”

Dordt College Memories Panel

Puppet Show

10:00-11:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Community/campus tours

11:00 a.m.-Noon

Noon-1:00 p.m. Children’s Concert

Lunch

Vision at Work and Play

Alumni Choir Rehearsal

12:30-2:00 p.m.

2:00-4:00 p.m. Alumni Talent Show

Organized activities for K-6th grade students

“What’s Ahead for Dordt College?”

Dordt College Memories Panel

Affinity Reunions

Vision at Work and Play

Class Reunions

4:15-5:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m. *City Parade

6:00 p.m. Alumni and Friends Banquet

6:00-10:00 p.m. Activities for K-6th grade students

7:00-9:00 p.m. Public Skate

8:00 p.m. Alumni Choir Concert/Hymn Sing

Purpaleanie

8:00 p.m. Salvador Music Concert

8:00 p.m. *Fireworks

10:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 3

7:30-9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Community Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

11:00 a.m. Community Worship

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Closing Luncheon

* Denotes community event



307 Graduate



Keith Sewell
pens work on
Butterfield

3



Lyle Gritters retires

7



Grandchildren
of Haan and
Hulst graduate

8